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## **Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 258**

**Presented by Representative Adam Mathews & Kellie Deeter  
Ohio House of Representatives – 136th General Assembly**

Chair Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim, and esteemed members of the House Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 258, which I am proud to introduce alongside Representative Adam Mathews. This legislation seeks to enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of our state's driver's license renewal process by mandating that the Registrar of Motor Vehicles send renewal notices to drivers **before** their licenses expire, rather than after.

Currently, Ohio law permits the Registrar to notify drivers of their license expiration **after** the license has lapsed. This practice can lead to unintended lapses in licensure, resulting in potential legal complications, fines, and disruptions to daily life for our constituents. Both of us have heard from local citizens who in the busyness of life, accidentally forgot to renew their license. By ensuring that drivers receive timely reminders **before** their licenses expire, we can promote compliance, enhance road safety, and reduce administrative burdens associated with expired licenses.

### **Benefits to Ohioans**

1. **Improved Public Safety:** Timely renewals ensure that drivers remain legally authorized to operate vehicles, contributing to overall road safety.
2. **Administrative Efficiency:** Proactive notifications can decrease the number of expired licenses, reducing the workload on the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and associated enforcement agencies.

**3. Economic Considerations:** Preventing license expirations can help Ohioans avoid fines and potential increases in insurance premiums, thereby supporting their financial well-being.

The primary cost driver would be printing, postage, and administrative labor. As of 2024, Ohio has around 8.7 million driver's licenses. Roughly half of licenses renew each cycle. Assuming an average 4-year renewal period, Ohio processes about 2.2 million renewals annually. Bulk first-class mail costing approximately \$0.36 per piece would cost \$792,000/year. With labor and printing, the cost estimate is around 1 million annually for all licenses.

We know, however, that most people will not need the reminder. The change for our bill responds to human nature, changing the current practice of sending notice 45 days after expiration to sending notice right before expiration. This minimizes costs while keeping people right with the law.

House Bill 258 proposes a straightforward amendment to section 4507.09 of the Revised Code, requiring the Registrar to send renewal notices no less than 14 days prior to the expiration date of a driver's license. This change aligns with best practices observed in other states like Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Georgia, and reflects a commitment to proactive governance.

In conclusion, House Bill 258 represents a common-sense approach to improving the driver's license renewal process in Ohio. By ensuring that our residents receive timely reminders, we can enhance compliance, promote safety, and reduce unnecessary burdens on both citizens and state agencies.

I respectfully urge the committee to consider and support this legislation. Thank you for your time and attention. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.