



Representative Bernie Bunyan Willis

74th House District

House Bill 434- House Transportation Committee

October 7th, 2025

Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim, and other distinguished members of the House Transportation committee, thank you for the opportunity today to speak on H.B. 434 a crucial piece of legislation that corrects several unintended consequences in H.B. 54.

Under current law that was recently enacted, certain applicants for a limited-term driver's license are unintentionally subject to driver education requirements that were never intended to apply to them. This problem arose from language included in House Bill 54, and the effect has been to create unnecessary barriers for a narrow class of individuals who already meet appropriate standards for safe driving.

House Bill 434 corrects that error by clarifying the limited-term licensing provisions in section 4507.21 of the Revised Code. This ensures that individuals with military or federal ties, who hold valid foreign driver's licenses and visas, are not burdened with duplicative requirements that were not meant for them. It is a measured, targeted fix that restores the law to what the legislature originally intended.

In addition, the amendment to H.B. 434 addresses another unintended consequence from House Bill 96 by expanding the **Drones for First Responders Program**. As enacted, the program only applied to municipal corporations, inadvertently excluding counties and townships. This left many fire, EMS, and law enforcement agencies unable to participate in a program designed to help them save lives. The amendment corrects this oversight and ensures that all first responders—whether in cities, suburbs, or rural communities—can access the training, equipment, and federal approvals necessary to deploy unmanned aerial systems safely and effectively.

Finally, I want to underscore the importance of the emergency clause. This is not a change we can afford to delay. Every day that passes without this fix, families and individuals continue to face unnecessary red tape at the BMV, and many of our first responders remain excluded from vital tools that enhance public safety. The emergency clause ensures that this narrow correction

takes effect immediately, restoring fairness in licensing and allowing our first responders to benefit from the program without delay.

House Bill 434 makes a careful, corrective adjustment to the law. It fixes unintended consequences, honors our legislative intent, and ensures that both Ohio's drivers and its first responders are treated properly.

I will now gladly hand the mic over to my joint sponsor, Representative Lampton.