



Ohio Driving School Association
182B East Ave
Tallmadge, OH 44278

Proponent Testimony on House Bill 434

Before the House Transportation Committee

Ohio Driving School Association

October 7, 2025

Chairman, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of House Bill 434. My name is Tom Kircher, and I am here on behalf of the Ohio Driving School Association, which represents hundreds of certified driving instructors and schools across the state. Our mission is to promote roadway safety and ensure that every new driver on Ohio's roads has the knowledge and experience to operate safely and responsibly. While we are strong advocates for comprehensive driver education, we also recognize that not every applicant's situation fits neatly into the standard licensing framework.

House Bill 434 provides a practical and narrowly tailored exemption for individuals who are temporarily residing in Ohio due to work associated with the U.S. Military, the Department of Defense, or one of its subordinate agencies. These individuals often possess valid foreign driver's licenses and have already undergone rigorous background checks and training through military channels. Requiring them to complete Ohio's full driver education curriculum—designed primarily for new and inexperienced drivers—creates an unnecessary barrier to their ability to live and work safely within our communities. This bill strikes the right balance by maintaining Ohio's high standards for driver safety while recognizing the unique circumstances of our international partners serving alongside U.S. forces.

The Ohio Driving School Association supports House Bill 434 because it maintains the integrity of our driver education system without imposing redundant or impractical requirements on a very limited group of temporary residents. The bill also includes appropriate verification measures through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to ensure that only those with legitimate military or defense affiliations qualify for the exemption. We appreciate the sponsors' thoughtful approach to addressing this issue and urge the Committee's favorable passage of House Bill 434 to ensure Ohio remains both a safe and welcoming place for those who support our national defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Kircher".