Ohio House of Representatives

Representative Mike Odioso

30th House District

Representative Cindy Abrams

29th House District

Senate General Oversight Committee

Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 386

Wednesday, March 25th, 2025

Representative Mike Odioso:

Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 386, which seeks to amend Section 3101.05 of the Ohio Revised Code, which governs the application process for a marriage license.

Under the current law, applicants are only required to prove their age. While that requirement can be satisfied with photo identification, it can also be met by presenting documentation without photos, such as a birth certificate or a baptismal certificate. Essentially, there is no statutory requirement that an applicant provide proof of identity.

House Bill 386 addresses this gap in 3101.05 (A)(2) by adding a new provision that requires each applicant to present a current and valid photo identification when applying for a marriage license. Acceptable forms of identification include a U.S. passport, driver's license, state-issued identification card, government-issued photo ID, or a school-issued photo ID.

This is a commonsense update to Ohio law. Requiring valid photo identification ensures that probate courts can have a reliable way to verify the identity of applicants. By doing so, it can reduce the potential for fraud, deter human

trafficking and coercion through forced marriages, while maintaining the integrity of the marriage license process. Importantly, the legislation is flexible by allowing multiple forms of photo identification, making compliance straightforward for applicants of all ages.

Representative Cindy Abrams:

Lastly, this amendment brings our marriage license procedures in line with modern identification standards already used in most other legal and civic processes. This will close the loophole that currently permits the issuance of marriage licenses without a reliable means of confirming identity.

Members of the Senate General Oversight Committee, this is a simple yet important step to ensure greater accuracy and accountability in Ohio's marriage license system. The bill received overwhelming support in the Ohio House, passing unanimously out of the House Judiciary Committee and with a vote of 88-2 on the House floor. As the legislation is now before the Senate, we respectfully ask for your consideration of House Bill 386.

Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.