



Al Cutrona

State Senator
33rd District

Committees

Small Business & Economic Opportunity – Chair
Addiction & Community Revitalization
Education
Housing
Judiciary

Ohio Senate

Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8285

April 30, 2025

Senate Transportation Committee Senate Bill 91 Sponsor Testimony

Chair Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 91.

This legislation authorizes the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to enter-into a contract, via a competitive selection process, with a vendor to operate a specialty license plate program that will operate alongside the current statutory process for establishing and issuing specialty license plates.

This Private Vendor Specialty License Plate Program will work to modernize the specialty plate ordering system, while simultaneously enhancing customer service and choice. A key benefit of this program is that it operates at no cost to the state, or any of its corresponding agencies, due to the program being fully funded by the sales and renewals of each vendor plate.

The State of Texas has utilized a similar public/private partnership since 2009 and, to date, the vendor has sold more than 850,000 specialty/personalized plates, generating more than \$200 million for the state's general revenue fund.

Additionally, this legislation has the added benefit of generating revenue for our Drug Task Forces across the State of Ohio. A contribution, from the revenue

collected from the specialty plate sales, will be deposited into the Drug Law Enforcement Fund, which is used to award grants to local governments to defray expenses related to local drug task forces. Without sufficient funding, many of these Drug Task Forces may cease to exist. However, this legislation aims to give back to those who risk their lives to keep our communities safe.

Lastly, it is important to note that this legislation will not impact the legislature's ability to create specialty license plates. The legislature will still retain its authority to enact new specialty plates, at its own discretion and the legislature will also be responsible for approving vendor designed plates. So, no authority is taken away from the legislature. This new program would merely work harmoniously between private and public interests, all the while creating new jobs, increasing the state's revenue, and giving back to first responders and local law enforcement.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 91. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.