



SENATOR STEVE WILSON

Senate Transportation Committee
October 1, 2025
Senate Bill 16

Thank you Chairman Patton, Vice-Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 16. This bill is a reintroduction of Senate Bill 178 from the 135th General Assembly, which passed out of Committee by a vote of 11-0 and on the Senate floor by a vote of 28-0.

Current law requires drivers to carefully move over one lane, or slow down if changing lanes is not possible, when approaching *certain vehicles*. These *certain vehicles* include:

- stationary public safety vehicles;
- emergency vehicles;
- road service vehicles;
- waste collection vehicles;
- vehicles used by the Public Utilities Commission to conduct inspections; and
- highway maintenance vehicles.

If a member of this Committee or any other member of the public has to pull over on the shoulder of Interstate 71 to change a tire, passing motorists *are not* required to slow down or move over, even if the vehicle has its hazard lights on. This legislation would require drivers to make their best effort to slow down or move over when approaching a distressed vehicle, which is defined as a vehicle that is pulled over on the shoulder that is displaying hazard/blinking lights, flares, or some form of emergency signage.

This bill does not increase or expand penalties on drivers who do not slow down or move over. The current penalty that drivers are subject to when they do not slow down or move over for the *certain vehicles* previously mentioned will now apply to *distressed vehicles* under this bill.

Data from the American Automobile Association shows a concerning rise in accidents and fatalities related to distressed vehicles. I believe we should do more to prevent these accidents and fatalities. Research from The Ohio State University shows that in many cases, Ohioans are already unsure of when they should slow down or move over. By enhancing the law to include distressed vehicles, we can close that information gap.

Thank you again for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony.