



**Senator Jerry Cirino**  
**Senate Bill 183**  
**Sponsor Testimony**  
**Senate Workforce Development Committee**  
**May 14, 2025**

Chairman Koehler, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on SB 183, which would require nonresidential construction contractors, nonresidential construction subcontractors, and labor brokers to verify their employee's eligibility through E-Verify.

E-Verify is a free service jointly administered by the Department of Homeland Security and Social Security Administration. Overseen by "USCIS" or the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, E-Verify electronically confirms, within 3-5 seconds of submission, an employee's eligibility to work in the United States.

E-Verify uses the same I-9 form employees are currently required to complete when hiring a new employee. Here's the key: current federal law requires the I-9 to be filled out, but there is no reporting or filing requirement after it is completed. The form goes into a file cabinet to collect dust. Under E-Verify, the employer scans and submits the I-9 form and immediately receives confirmation of the employee's eligibility to work in the US. If E-Verify returns a rejection, the employee is given 8 days to contact DHS or SSA to contest the finding. If the employee does not act within 10 days, the case is deemed a final non-confirmation, and the employee can be terminated.

Employers have 24/7 access to this free service, and it's the same form they already fill out. The E-Verify system is not discriminatory. It doesn't check citizenship status, it doesn't check race or national origin, and it applies to all new hires, both citizens and non-citizens

A more expansive version of this legislation was passed by the House last year by a vote of 85-6.

SB 183 applies specifically to Ohio's construction industry, with the exception of small-scale residential construction.

I am happy to report that there are productive, ongoing conversations with the opponents of the previous bill regarding due process and penalty provisions and will continue to work collaboratively and address their concerns.

The bill will represent a huge step forward in combatting undocumented worker abuse and human trafficking in Ohio.

I will now turn it over to my joint-sponsor, Senator Reynolds, and am happy to answer any questions following her testimony.