

Representative Scott Wiggam

1st House District

Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 359.

The purpose of this legislation is to eliminate the registration taxes and fees for WWII veterans who wish to obtain specialty WWII Veteran plates for their passenger vehicles.

These veterans belong to the greatest generation of our country’s illustrious history and I believe that they have certainly earned the right to display their meritorious service without any additional cost to them. That is why I urge the General Assembly to eliminate any cost to veterans who wish to register their vehicle with “WWII Veteran” license plates.

This bill would be small gesture towards a population that was willing to sacrifice everything for our country and fought valiantly in opposition to the greatest forces of evil that we have ever known. Currently, a license plate would cost a Franklin county resident $59.90 including applicable taxes and fees. According to the Ohio Department of Public Safety, in the state there were 726 transactions in 2018 for the “WWII Veteran” license plate. Meaning that it will only cost approximately $43,000, this loss is largely negligible and it serves as a sincere thank you to these brave heroes. Sadly, the population that will be affected by this legislation is getting smaller by the day as many of these veterans pass on, so I believe the least we can do as grateful descendants is offer them a free license plate for their service and great sacrifice to this nation.

Currently, the “Purple Heart” and “Disable Veteran” license plates do not have any cost for registration. Our intent with House Bill 359 is to add the “WWII Veteran” license plate to this list and I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you all for your time and I am happy to answer any questions at this time.