



Rick Carfagna, Senior Vice President
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Proponent Testimony – Senate Bill 235
December 13, 2022

Good morning, Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Member Sobecki, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for allowing me to present proponent testimony for Senate Bill 235 on behalf of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. My name is Rick Carfagna, and I am the Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. For 129 years, the Ohio Chamber has served as the state's leading business advocate, and we represent over 8,000 companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness, and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

Senate Bill 235 exempt documentary service charges and income tax electronic filing fees from sales and use taxation, in essence eliminating the practice of collecting taxes on certain fees. The Ohio Chamber supports the inclusion of House Bill 197, sponsored by Representatives Reggie Stoltzfus and Rodney Creech, into this bill. HB 197, as you may recall, passed unanimously out of both this committee and the Ohio House of Representatives. Commercial vehicle operators are valuable to our state's economy, and there is a critical need for this profession in our workforce.

If enacted, SB 235 as amended with HB 197, would now also do the following:

- Authorize a nonrefundable income tax credit of up to \$25,000 per year for training expenses paid by employers to train employees to operate a commercial vehicle.
- Limit the total amount of credits that may be awarded each year to \$1.5 million.
- Apply to training expenses incurred on or after January 1, 2022.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce supports SB 235 as amended with HB 197, and we respectfully ask this committee to help us shore up the need to secure more commercial drivers. Ohio owns the nation's 4th largest interstate system, which places the state within a 10-hour drive of approximately half of the U.S. population, and a one-day drive from 60% of the population of the U.S. and Canada. Additionally, the Central Ohio region alone is now the 11th largest distribution center in the United States, and within 300 miles of Toledo the Northwest Ohio region has access to the most industrial square footage in the nation. Ohio's logistics industries need the manpower to capitalize on these important qualities, and we hope you will respond favorably with your vote.

Chairman Merrin and members of this committee, thank you for the opportunity to share these remarks.