

Meeting Minutes:

Chairman Ghanbari calls the committee meeting at 11:00 am.

Chairman Ghanbari brings H.B. 29 to the floor for the third hearing.

Chairman Ghanbari notes no objections, amendment becomes part of H.B. 29 and Ranking Member Thomas offers the amendment.

Chairman Ghanbari invites Amy Rohrenbeck to give interested party testimony.

Amy Rohrenbeck gives testimony that House Bill 29 would affect CSEA because the overwhelming majority of cases can achieve full reinstatement by communicating and working with the CSEA and never reach the issue of limited driving privileges. Additionally, if limited driving privileges remain, then she would like for clarification for the court that has jurisdiction over the child support case be the one that hears a motion by the obligor parent for limited driving privileges

Representative Ghanbari grants a personal point of privilege to Representative Demetriou.

Representative Demetriou introduces an undergrad student from Avon, Ohio studying at Cleveland State and shadowing the representative.

Chairman Ghanbari recognizes Sarah Field to present testimony.

Sarah Fields gives testimony as to how House Bill 29 would affect Jobs and Family Services, specifically Montgomery County. She specifies how the process in Montgomery County functions in regards to the reinstatement process and how it will affect local counties' CSEA Administrator.

Representative Brent acknowledges Aleisha Brown, an undergrad in the Cleveland areas. Representative Brent states that Franklin County and Hamilton County were not included in their testimony.

Amy Rohrenbeck states that the reason the numbers are not available is because these counties do not track the suspended drivers license.

Representative Brent asks if there are other ways to limit the struggle with child support.

Sarah Fields states there are programs that attempt to assist people to get a job and retain it.

Representative Plummer asks how successful their program has been and asks if they could provide other data and tools to get the money back from the suspension licenses.

Sarah Fields states that they do have the numbers and they will provide numbers as well as they do work on this issue by collecting child support by conducting arrests from the currently suspended licenses.

Amy Rohrenbeck states that they will provide data as well.

Ranking Member Thomas asks how many investigators they have for these child support cases.

Sarah Fields states that have 32 case workers that are maintaining these cases.

Ranking Member Thomas asks if it would be helpful if all counties would track the suspended licenses on a wide spread basis.

Sarah Fields responds that this would be helpful however there are some intricacies that would make it difficult for larger counties to track this data.

Amy Rohrenbeck states it is labor intensive because their automated system is currently outdated and therefore this process is currently being updated.

Ranking Member Thomas states it is desirable for the counties to update their systems therefore they could have the same amount of success that Montgomery County has had.

Amy Rohrenbeck states they are attempting to move into a new system to solve this issue and therefore all counties may be able to share this success.

Representative Kevin Miller asks what the reinstatement fee is from the DMV.

Sarah Fields states that there is a \$25 fee at the DMV.

Ranking Member Thomas asks if there is a program that works with the employers in the county in order to track people with revoked licenses as well as their child support payments.

Amy Rohrenbeck states they do partner with their employer to receive this information.

Ranking Member Thomas asks if low income communities are typically the people that lose their licenses the most through suspension.

Sarah Fields states that they do not have exact data on this, however, from her experience this seems to be true.

Ranking Member Thomas asks if an individual is incarcerated, would this put their reinstatement process behind for the amount of time they spent in prison and therefore were unable to make child support payments.

Sarah Fields responds that incarceration cases depend on what county they are in and what exceptions they provide.

Amy Rohrenbeck states they are not revoking their licenses because they are incarcerated.

Ranking Member Thomas asks if Jobs and Family Services will contact the individual's employer to see if the individual is still currently working.

Sarah Fields states they do. Additionally, she states when somebody is incarcerated, they will contact them and will ease them into being released and making sure they are ready to re-integrate into society.

Representative Plummer asks if there is state discretion or a template that regulates local jobs and family service's enforcement techniques.

Amy Rohrenbeck states there is and there are specific rules for each enforcement method that each county must follow.

Representative Plummer states that data is needed for the enforcement techniques and this should be a priority.

Amy Rohrenbeck states this is a priority for them and they would like to focus on evidence-based practices.

Chairman Ghanbari asks about the data that would be used and the possible biases that may be involved. He places an emphasis on the need for a replication of Montgomery County's practice for the smaller communities.

Representative Adam Miller asks whether a military service member could bring a pay check from the government to easily make a modification to their payments or do they need a lawyer to assist them with the verification process.

Sarah Fields states they do allow this and do not require a lawyer.

Representative Adam Miller states the issue is deployed military personal may not be able to make their modifications when they are serving.

Amy Rohrenbeck states there is an expedited modification process for this issue as well as they allow a family member to stand in for them.

Sarah Fields states they do have an automated process to flag currently serving members.

Ranking Member Thomas states there is a larger issue with the outdated systems and there is a need for an evaluation of their system to find a cost for this update.

Amy Rohrenbeck states Ohio is not the only state with an outdated system; however, over the pandemic Ohio Jobs and Family Services has adapted greatly to the need to communicate and retain information in their system. She would like to see the system modernized at the state level for Jobs and Family Services.

Chairman Ghanbari concludes the third hearing of House 29.

Chairman Ghanbari asks for a review of the meeting minutes for 3/8/2023. Seeing no objections, the minutes were accepted.

Chairman Ghanbari adjourns the committee at 11:56am

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Chairman Ghanbari

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Ranking Member Thomas