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SB 197 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Judiciary Committee
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Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for allowing me to give testimony on Senate Bill 197, which would allow for the sealing of charges dismissed through intervention in lieu of conviction (ILC) in which the charges are associated with operating a vehicle under the influence.

Under SB 197, if an individual has their charges dismissed through intervention in lieu of conviction, and one of the charges was an OVI, it allows the other charges to be sealed. If they successfully complete this program, then one year after completion the charges can be dismissed, and a court may order that records pertaining to the charges dismissed under the plan be sealed. A full year must pass in order for the records to be sealed. The bill does not allow the OVI to be sealed.

Under current law, all charges that qualify for an ILC program can be dismissed after its completion, except those that are associated with an OVI. The Supreme Court of Ohio has called for this to be fixed. There is no point of ILC if the charges cannot be sealed.

This has become a workforce issue, where some who choose to pursue ILC believe their charges associated with the OVI will be able to be sealed, but alas, they are not able to be. Thus, applications for employment to get their life back on track are made much more difficult.

Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 197. I am happy to take any questions from the committee.