



Ohio Judicial Conference

The Voice of Ohio Judges

March 29, 2019

The Honorable Sandra Williams
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: SB 68

Dear Senator Williams:

The Traffic Law and Procedure Committee of the Ohio Judicial Conference has reviewed Senate Bill 68, which would authorize courts to order community service in lieu of paying driver's license reinstatement fees.

While judges understand the intent behind the bill, and recognize that many Ohioans have difficulty in meeting the obligations of even the Bureau of Motor Vehicles' reduced payment plan, there are practical concerns over having courts oversee community service programs for the repayment of amounts owed to a state agency. SB 68 could add to the administrative burden placed on courts, as court staff would need to supervise the completion of community service and to coordinate with the BMV on compliance.

We therefore suggest amending the bill to give the BMV, rather than courts, the authority to allow for community service in lieu of reinstatement fees. Reinstatement fees belong to the BMV, and the BMV, not the courts, should be responsible not only for collecting them, but also for determining whether, and how, community service can be performed in lieu of those fees. Alternatively, we suggest allowing the BMV to waive the reinstatement fees for indigent drivers.

Thank you for your considering the feedback of the Judicial Conference. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or Josh Williams, Deputy Legislative Counsel, at Joshua.Williams@sc.ohio.gov or (614) 387-9767.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Pfeifer
Executive Director

Cc: Sen. Joe Uecker, Chair, Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee
Sen. Tina Maharath, Ranking Member, Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee

OHIO JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

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