



Ohio House Democratic Caucus

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Two Bills Crafted by Rep. DeGeeter Sent to Governor to be Signed into Law *One Helps Metropolitan Park Districts, Other Clarifies Reinstatement Fees for Drivers*

COLUMBUS – Two pieces of legislation championed by State Representative Timothy J. DeGeeter (D-Parma) successfully passed the Ohio House of Representative Tuesday as riders in other bills.

House Bill 511, which would help Metropolitan Park Districts generate more revenue by bringing their fines up-to-date with statewide misdemeanor fines, was folded into Senate Bill 220 as an amendment and passed.

“The provisions in House Bill 511 represent a common-sense solution,” Rep. DeGeeter said. “The bill updates an insufficient existing law that hindered the ability of Metropolitan Park Districts to deter crime and offer their facilities as safe and fun destinations for families. With this bill, rule breakers will face tough penalties, and families will have peace of mind that the Metropolitan Park Districts are truly able to keep their areas safe.”

Rep. DeGeeter has worked with interested parties around the state since 2006 to make sure the legislation that was crafted met the needs of the Metropolitan Park Districts in Ohio.

“I am grateful for Rep. DeGeeter’s leadership on this issue,” said Gregory M. Loftus, Chief of Rangers for Cleveland Metroparks. “His work corrects the fine structure for every Metropolitan Park District in the state.”

The second piece of legislation, House Bill 303, would let drivers pay their license reinstatement fees in installments or allow courts to order an extension. House Bill 303’s provisions were included in the capital budget that successfully passed the Ohio House.

“This legislation offers flexibility in the courts to give drivers ample time to legally get their licenses back,” Rep. DeGeeter said. “It will assist many Ohioans who cannot afford large reinstatement fees or who need to obtain legal car insurance.”

The need for this legislation was brought to Rep. DeGeeter’s attention by Judge Kenneth Spanagel of the Parma Municipal Court.

“I thank Rep. DeGeeter for helping me correct what was an unexpected error by the General Assembly in House Bill 461,” Judge Spanagel said. “This bill will restore to Ohio judges the ability to help

defendants to become legally-licensed drivers while at the same time addressing their pending cases, a tool which judges have used extensively since its inception in 2004.”

As a member of the minority party in the Ohio House of Representative, Rep. DeGeeter has successfully worked in a bipartisan manner to pass three of his bills through the 127th General Assembly. Governor Ted Strickland signed Rep. DeGeeter’s House Bill 46 into law last month, simplifying the process by which Ohio consumers can put a freeze on their credit scores and protect themselves and their families from identity thieves.

Senate Bill 220 and the capital bill now head to the Governor’s desk for his consideration and signature.