



Shield Driving School

Central Pa. Premier Driving School

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I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of my company Shield Driving School. I have had many challenges with the Department of Education, and I look forward to the conversation with this committee about alternatives to overcome the obstacles created by a faction within the Department of Education that have overstepped and ignored state law to push a separate agenda. I am here also as an advocate to fix and amend act 605, which is over 70 years old and predates the department in which it currently resides.

As an employer, hiring has become expeditiously more difficult with the archaic laws and gestapo-like obstacles that have been implemented by the current department in which we reside. As a licensed educator in both the states of Pennsylvania and Maryland, I have never witnessed such abuse of educational practices as I have here at the Department of Education that oversees Driver Education.

In education and government, it is in the state's best interest to work with all stakeholders to ensure equity and equality for the people they serve. The Department of Education has failed to include Driving schools in this conversation. I brought in qualified employees beyond the letter of the law who were unable to continue with me because of the obstacles that the Department of Education has put forth. I had a 12-year veteran of the Carlisle police department who was taking his bar for his law degree the following week. He failed his driving school test but passed the bar. He retok the test after passing the bar and still was unable to pass the test. I have had employees with master's degrees and services within Law enforcement for over 25 years, and they are unable to pass the test necessary to work in the state of Pennsylvania legally. Act 605 has to be amended, and we need your help in saving a private industry that is on the brink of collapsing. Thank you for your time.

Brad Bixler

Owner, Shield Driving School

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1. Questions on the 100 question exam pertaining to being a school owner for the candidate is ridiculous. There is no relevance.

2. Whenever I share the requirements to a prospective instructor candidate, I say to them up front that it will probably take 3 months from start to finish to get fully licensed and get out on the road. My wife always says, "Who wants to wait that long".

3. The process to get a candidate their road exam has historically been like finding your way out of a black hole. Penndot DMV's look at you like you've got a hole in your head when you try to get your candidate tested out. You get bounced back and forth from their online or phone scheduling system to asking supervisors to help with the process. Maybe you've got better inside channels as a 3rd party tester, but to the small guy like me, it has always been a crap shoot as to how it will go. This process can be exacerbated with high Penndot turnover.