

ROGERS DRIVING SCHOOL INC. 412-931-9000

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July 30, 2021

RE: House Bill No. 1244 Testimony Summary for August 10, 2021 Transportation Committee Hearing.

My name is Timothy T. Rogers. I am the President of Rogers Driving School which has been providing driver education services in the Greater Pittsburgh region for the past fifty two years. I want to lend my endorsement and support for House Bill 1244. One of the most crucial activities for a driving school is recruiting and hiring great driver education teachers. This is difficult to do under the current protracted and unnecessarily cumbersome driving instructor licensing system. A process that can take months to complete! Under the current system the instructor written exam is only offered in Harrisburg. For driving schools not in the Harrisburg area it is difficult to explain to instructor candidates that, in the 21st century, they have to drive to another city to take a written two hour exam. I have lost very qualified instructor candidates because they did not want to drive to another city or to endure the long licensing process.

This is especially disturbing during a pandemic when every educational institution offered virtual learning and testing thereby mitigating the chance of virus transmission. Unfortunately, the driving school industry operates under legislation from 1952. A lot has changed in seventy years. Although, even the current driving school regulations indicates "Examinations shall be given at various stipulated locations throughout this Commonwealth" (Section 101.152 of Chapter 101). But this provision has not been complied with for many decades. Although when I took my driving instructor written exam in 1984, I took it at a Pittsburgh located PA State Police driving test center, when the State Police administered driving tests. So there is precedent for offering the exam via multiple locations throughout the Commonwealth.

Other state agencies and departments that license professions do not require applicants to travel to Harrisburg for testing. At one time I owned an insurance agency which required me to pass four separate licensing exams (Property & Casualty, Health & Life, Series 6 & 63 Securities License exams). I did not have to go to the PA Insurance Department in Harrisburg to take these exams. They were offered throughout the state at professional testing centers. Allowing thousands of financial service professionals to be proctored in their local communities. That is why I believe the PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT), with its state wide testing locations and primary responsibility for licensing drivers, would be the perfect department to take the lead in licensing driving instructors!

Very truly yours,

Timothy J. Rogers

Timothy T. Rogers, President