



**Senator Jim Hughes**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Ohio Senate District**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HUGHES ANNOUNCES PASSAGE OF BILL THAT WOULD INCREASE  
JUDICIAL DISCRETION IN DEALING WITH JUVENILE TRAFFIC OFFENDERS**

*COLUMBUS*—State Senator Jim Hughes (R- Columbus) announced that the Ohio Senate voted this week to pass Senate Bill 19, his legislation that provides judges with greater discretion when deciding whether to suspend the driver’s licenses of certain repeat juvenile traffic offenders. Hughes sponsored similar legislation in the last General Assembly.

“My bill gives judges the ability to get these individuals more hands-on driving experience rather than suspending the driver’s license of a young driver who commits a minor traffic offense early in their driving career,” Hughes said. “With juveniles having a shorter driving history, this option will enable them to become better and safer drivers, which will help protect all Ohio motorists and save lives.”

Senate Bill 19 allows judges to waive the license suspension of a juvenile who has been convicted of or pleads guilty to certain traffic offenses provided the offender submits a petition requesting that the suspension not be imposed. The petition may only be offered once, and must also detail the reasons why the offender believes the suspension would impact their need to use a vehicle. In addition, the offender must submit to the court proof that they have completed an advanced juvenile driver improvement program, which includes a certain number of classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel driving exercises.

Senate Bill 19 now moves to the Ohio House of Representatives for further consideration.