



Senator Tim Schaffer
31st Ohio Senate District

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**SCHAFFER BILL INCREASES PENALTIES FOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS
RESULTING IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH**

Proposals are similar to those proposed in 127th and 128th General Assemblies

COLUMBUS – State Senator Tim Schaffer (R – Lancaster) went before the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee on Wednesday to garner support for Senate Bill 92, an effort to stiffen criminal penalties related to traffic violations leading to the serious bodily harm or death of another person.

“Current right of way laws do not adequately take into account the vulnerability of pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists,” said Schaffer. “This bill will move us forward in enhancing the safety of those citizens and bringing penalties for violation closer in line with the actual offense.”

Under current law, a first time right of way violation is a minor misdemeanor with a fine that cannot exceed \$150, making it the lowest misdemeanor penalty possible.

If enacted, a judge may impose an additional fine of up to \$500, assess up to four points on an offender’s license, and impose a license suspension of up to six months, should a right of way violation result in serious bodily injury. Moreover, if such a violation results in the death of an individual, penalties may include a fine up to \$1,000, the assessment of up to six points on the driver’s license, and as many twelve months with a suspended license.

The legislation has earned the endorsement of both the American Motorcycle Association and ABATE of Ohio.