

OHIO LAND TITLE ASSOCIATION

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January 23, 2018

Supplemental Testimony in Support of House Bill 407

Chairman Butler, Ranking Member Boggs, Vice Chair Hughes, and Members of the House Civil Justice Committee.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before your committee on January 17 in support of the repeal of dower.

A final thought . . .

The sole proposition in opposition to the repeal of dower is that dower is a much needed safeguard against dishonest spouses who would otherwise enjoy success in their scheme to defraud Ohio domestic relations courts during the pendency of a divorce or dissolution.

If this proposition be true, why has not one state that recently or long ago repealed dower since returned the ancient estate? Are domestic relations courts in Maine and Minnesota now powerless to protect spouses? Do dishonest spouses in Pennsylvania and New York enjoy free rein to secret real estate from the prying eyes of their state courts?

Is havoc the state of affairs in Indiana and Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Tennessee?

In truth, not one state has rued the abolishment of dower or retreated to embrace its archaic rules. Our Ohio Legislature should fear no regret either. When the incidental and accidental use of an old law for a few unequivocally inflicts chaos and cost upon the many, repeal is sensible.

I plan to attend your committee meeting on January 24 should you have any further questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles A. Brigham, III
Secretary/Treasurer, Ohio Land Title Association