



Representative Scott Wiggam

1st House District

Chairman Manning, Vice-Chairman Rezabek, Ranking Member Celebrezze, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for providing me with the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 607. This legislation will eliminate the requirement that one of the judges of the Wayne County Municipal Court sit within the municipal corporation of Orrville.

Currently, Ohio law requires one judge to sit in Orrville and one judge to sit in Wooster. Wayne County is one of six counties in the state that enumerate where judges are to serve the public. This strict law prohibits the ability for judges to decide which location best serves the citizens of Wayne County.

That is why I have introduced House Bill 607. This legislation would continue to require the judges to meet in Wooster, and would also give them the flexibility to decide whether they will meet in Orrville or other locations in Wayne County. Supported by the Wayne County Municipal Court judges, the public defenders' office, the Wayne County prosecutor, various law enforcement officials, and the Wayne County Clerk of Courts. This flexibility is important for cost savings, security, and overall efficiency.

The current Orrville location does not provide the appropriate level of security for court operations. While the City of Orrville has always been responsive to court security needs, the physical layout of the building makes it difficult to properly secure the courtroom and other court-related offices. Additionally, the current facilities no longer offer the use of holding cells. This limitation has resulted in more proceedings being moved to the Wooster location to provide for appropriate security.

Due to the fact the court facilities are staffed by employees who are also assigned to the Wooster branch the court must constantly shuffle employees from one location to another. The budget does not permit the court to hire a separate staff for both locations. As a result, there are frequent staff shortages in Wooster while proceedings are being held in Orrville.

Additionally, the court has recently adopted an electronic filing system which allows remote filing via the internet. The ability to file court documents is now available 24/7. As such, attorneys who typically utilize the Orrville locations will no longer would have to drive to Wooster to file court documents in the absence of the Orrville location.



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Due to the reasons stated above, I respectfully ask for your support on this matter. Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 607. I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.