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Ohio Senate

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**Sponsor Testimony on Senate Bill 183**  
**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**September 12, 2017**

Chairman Bacon, Vice Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas, members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 183. This legislation would create a study committee to look at how Ohio could become a more attractive place to start and grow a business by creating a court that focuses on business issues which offers a specialized group of staff and judges. The committee will examine what affects a business court, similar to the Court of Chancery in Delaware, would have in Ohio and whether it would help to attract business to our state.

The state of Delaware has long been identified as an attractive location for corporations to register, evident in the over 300 Fortune 500 companies that are currently registered there, overwhelmingly more than any other state. One main reason large companies are attracted to Delaware is their Court of Chancery, a business court dedicated to finding equitable and reasonable judgments.

This unique court is successful due to the cases they hear and the judges that preside over them. The judges that sit on the court are business experts with years of experience in corporate law. Due to their background, the judges are better equipped to make rulings in regards to business questions.

This bill will create a study committee to determine whether a separate business court would be viable in Ohio. The committee will be made up of legislators, judges, business leaders, a member of the Office of the Secretary of State, and the organizations in Ohio which represent business interests.

Together, they will examine how a business court could benefit Ohio's business community and therefore create a more prosperous state for all Ohioans. The committee will study all aspects involved in creating this court including how to get judges with the appropriate experience to preside over it.

If the committee deems a separate business court to be sustainable in Ohio, they will not only recommend the creation of the new court system, but also produce a draft bill to be considered by the House and Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.