



Proponent Testimony before the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

On behalf of the Ohio Auctioneers Association

in support of House Bill 373 – Auctioneer Law

November 19, 2019

By: Wade Baer, Ohio Auctioneers Association

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Chairman Koehler, Vice Chair Smith, Ranking Member Brent and members of the House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, my name is Wade Baer. I have been a full time licensed auctioneer for 17 years making my living doing so. I am here today to provide testimony in support of HB 373 regarding changes to ORC chapter 4707 the auctioneer law on behalf of the Ohio Auctioneers Association (OAA). I would like to thank Rep. Tim Ginter for his support and work on behalf of this important bill. I would also like to thank the Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio Auctioneer's Commission for their help and collaboration.

There are approximately 2900 licensees currently in the state. The OAA has 390 members in Ohio mostly small business owners and is a non-profit organization, founded in 1942. Since that time, it has continued to grow in strength and fellowship and is an association committed to improving and promoting higher standards in the auction profession.

This bill is one that was drafted with two goals in mind. The first goal is to relieve the barrier to entry into our industry. HB 373 will accomplish this goal by removing the apprenticeship program. With the changes proposed in this bill, to be a licensed auctioneer a person will need the currently required 80 hours of classroom education from an approved provider and then sit for the auction exam. After passing the exam they will be a fully licensed auctioneer, a process that from start to finish could take as little as two months to complete as compared to the current method which is a 14 month minimum time frame at best. This portion of the bill was prepared within the spirit of SB 255 to reduce barriers to occupational licenses.

The second goal is to cover online auctions under auction law to bring another layer of protection to consumers by educating these individuals on basic auction business practices, ethics, law, contracts and trust accounts.

Other changes that are being proposed in HB 373 are adding a continuing education requirement for auctioneers, removing the special auctioneer license, adding definitions of live and online auctions, removing the oral exam and a change in the handling of the auctioneer fund.

Thank you allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill. We urge your favorable support. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.