

House Bill 166
Larry Wolpert - Executive Director
Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) Budget
April 4, 2019

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation and thank you for permitting me to give testimony on House Bill 166.

I am Larry Wolpert the Director of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review or more commonly known as JCARR. JCARR was created in 1977 and consists of five House members and five Senate members.

The committee has the same powers as other standing or select committees and continues to meet even when the General Assembly has adjourned. The role of JCARR is to review all proposed, amended and rescinded administrative rules from over 100 agencies to ensure agencies do not exceed their rule writing authority granted to them by you - the General Assembly.

Under my tenure as director JCARR has seen a lot of change. We completed a series of instructional videos, redesigned our website, created the RuleWatch Ohio website, spearheaded adding Ohio's public universities' rules to the Administrative Code, rewrote the JCARR procedure manual into a "plain language" format, redesigned the Rule Summary and Fiscal Analysis (RSFA), created a JCARR personnel manual, conducted agency focus groups, eliminating 37 years of stored paper files by scanning them into an electronic format, conducted staff educational field trips, created a JCARR organizational chart and job descriptions, designed JCARR purchasing procedures, and added JCARR Twitter and Facebook accounts. These enhancements make it easier for agencies to submit rules to JCARR and therefore reduce time and costs.

Senate Bill 221 which becomes effective August 18, 2019 will expand the responsibilities of the JCARR. Senate Bill 1, which is currently before the assembly, greatly expands JCARR's responsibilities by helping agencies reduce their restrictive words in rules. This legislation may require us to increase staff to successfully comply

with the bill's requirements. Senate Bill 1 was originally introduced as Senate Bill 293 in the last assembly but did not make it through the House. With the anticipation of it passing in the last assembly, we rolled over \$80,000 of unspent funds to 2019 to potentially cover the additional staff. That it is reflected by the 40% increase between the 2018 actual and estimated 2019 budget.

Since it is unknown if Senate Bill 1 will become law, our proposed budget for FY 2020 and FY 2021 still contains the extra funds to hire additional staff if needed. We are requesting \$570,000 for both years.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee and I would be willing to answer any questions you may have.