

May 27, 2020

The Honorable Derek Merrin
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: HB 602

Dear Chairman Merrin,

We are submitting these brief remarks regarding HB 602 on behalf of the Coalition of Ohio Daily Law Journals, which represents the interests of the daily legal newspapers in Ohio. While we sincerely appreciate Representatives Rogers' and Lipps' interest in how tax foreclosure notices are handled under current law — and we look forward to working with them to help contain the costs associated with such notices — we are concerned about current provisions in the bill.

We respectfully suggest that there may be alternatives to the proposal of eliminating the second and third printed publication of these notices. Several years ago, the General Assembly amended Ohio's law with regard to similar notices and provided that second and third notices would be *shortened* versions of the original. We would propose a similar solution for these tax foreclosure notices. We strongly believe that notice by publication, printed notice, provides a permanent and unchangeable record that simply cannot be duplicated by online notices.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these remarks. We look forward to working with you and the sponsors to improve this legislation so that it better protects the integrity of Ohio's public notices in a manner beneficial to all.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Shillingburg
Publisher,
The Daily Reporter (Columbus, Ohio)