

Opposition Testimony to proposed Amendment to O.R.C.319.16

Chairman Senator Matt Dolan Vice chairman Senator Dave Burke and ranking member Senator Vernon Sykes

I give this testimony to prevent an amendment to the Ohio revised code. That amendment 319.16 is also known as the Seitz/Grendell amendment. It is a small seemingly insignificant part of the budget bill, but it will create havoc for County auditors throughout the state. Even more importantly it will prevent regular citizens from knowing what their public monies are being spent for.

This amendment changes the language in 319.16 so that any judge in the state of Ohio will be permitted to issue a court order telling his/her county auditor to pay any bill that the court presents. No evidence of purpose, no evidence of compliance with state regulations, and no evidence of adequate performance or completion of a task is required. No evidence of criminal background checks for contractors need be presented. No demonstration of competence to perform the required tasks. No, the judge simply presents a bill in court order form, to the County auditor and orders the auditor to pay it.

Since it's a court order, noncompliance by the auditor can lead to a contempt citation.

Giving any judge carte blanche to order that bills be paid without a reason, does not serve good the citizens of Ohio and can only tempt and encourage corruption of honest public officials.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Signed,
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