

**House Bill 64**  
**Senate Finance – Corrections Subcommittee**  
**Larry Wolpert - Executive Director**  
**Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) Budget**  
**May 7, 2015**

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Finance Corrections Subcommittee. Thank you for permitting me to give testimony on House Bill 64.

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 The role of JCARR is to review all proposed, amended and rescinded administrative rules from over 110 agencies to ensure agencies do not exceed their rule writing authority granted to them by you - the General Assembly.

In the last three years JCARR has had a lot of change. We successfully added the requirements of Senate Bills 2 and 3 into the JCARR procedure. We completed a series of instructional videos, redesigned our website, created RuleWatch Ohio, we use iPads for committee meetings instead of paper, we rewrote the JCARR procedure manual into a "plain language" format, created a JCARR personnel manual, conducted agency focus groups, we are in the process of 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. Just recently the NCSL magazine, "State Legislatures", listed the top 15 website ideas worth stealing. I am pleased to announce JCARR's RuleWatch Ohio website was the third best website to steal. I am very proud of our JCARR team in achieving this national recognition.

Mr. Chairman approximately 93% of JCARR's appropriation is used for staff and the remaining 7% is for supplies, maintenance and

equipment. At full staffing levels JCARR has a total of 5 positions. We also plan to participate in The Ohio State University's Legislation Clinic Internship Program which could add one non-paid part-time position.

For the upcoming biennium, the requested JCARR budget is \$493,139 for FY2016 and \$512,253 for FY 2017. This is a 8% increase for FY 16 and 3.9% for FY 17. The JCARR Chair and Vice Chair completed a comparative salary analysis which resulted in enhancements in professional staff base pay which represents most of the budget increases. I believe this budget will allow JCARR to meet its current statutory responsibilities, goal and objectives.

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