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Senate Bill 135 Sponsor Testimony
House Finance Committee
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Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Ryan, Ranking Minority Member Cera, and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 135, which would provide for the funding of new voting equipment and reimbursement to counties which have recently purchased new equipment.

Most voting equipment is reaching the end of its operational life and will need to be replaced prior to the 2020 presidential election. The current equipment was purchased in 2005 or 2006 and becoming difficult to maintain. Although widespread failure is not occurring, minor errors and glitches are becoming more common with each election and the long term viability of the system is being compromised. Voting systems are made up of many individual items, not just the voting device. Some of the equipment needed to support the voting system such as servers, printers and scanners, have been discontinued by the manufacturer and are not readily available. Parts that are no longer manufactured are becoming harder to find and thus affect the long-term viability of the system. This equipment comprises the essential infrastructure of our democracy, and it is a shared state and local responsibility to ensure that it is properly maintained.

Obtaining funding for voting equipment is a top priority for the County Commissioners Association of Ohio and the Ohio Association of Election Officials. Furthermore, the Bipartisan Commission on Election Administration prioritized updating electronic voting equipment as first-generation voting machines grow obsolete—and that time has come.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.