



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Representative Shane Wilkin

Chairman Hoagland, Vice-Chairman Schaffer, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, I thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 665

HB 665 is a common-sense reform bill. This bill has been worked on extensively by the Ohio Fair Managers Association in consultation with the County Commissioners Association. Many of the sections of code regarding county fairs haven't been updated or even touched since the 1950's.

As all public entities, ag. Societies are audited by the Auditor of State, and current law requires different information be submitted to the ODAg and the Auditor's office this bill will better align these reports so fairs aren't having to complete duplicative work in 2 different formats. Another change is that under current law the total net indebtedness of a society cannot exceed 25% of the society's annual revenues, this bill will clarify that a society's annual payments for debt obligations cannot exceed 25% of its annual revenue, which will give ag societies the ability to be flexible. There are more changes, most of which are technical we won't bore you with.

Continuing with financial flexibility and feasibility- This bill also has provisions to address some concerns during the current coronavirus pandemic. Furthermore, if a county agricultural society, independent agricultural society, or the Ohio Expositions Commission is unable to conduct a previously scheduled horse race, the society and the Ohio Harness

Horsemen's Association may agree to alternative accommodations, including the rescheduling of the dates and location of any horse race.

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State Representative

District 91