

Senate Government and Oversight Committee

November 20, 2019

Proponent Testimony: Senate Bill 136 (Hottinger, Sykes)

Melinda Gilpin, Executive Director
Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio, Inc.

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Craig, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in support of Senate Bill 136 from the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio.

The Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio (PLSO) represents over 1000 professional land surveying license holders in Ohio. Our organization supports Senate Bill 136 as a means to ensure that registered design professionals have the right to file liens for payment on private commercial projects.

Our organization believes this bill offers the opportunity for payment protection for design professionals who are not able to file a mechanics' lien on commercial improvements in Ohio. As a viable alternative, this bill protects the interest of those who perform these required professional services to obtain payment for their work.

The limitations of the circumstances in which a lien could be filed by a design professional are, in the organization's estimation, reasonable and appropriate. While a design lien would be subordinate to any real estate mortgage and mechanics' lien, it still allows the providers of these professional services the option of legally obtaining protection for their services in a responsible way.

We support Senate Bill 136 for the reasons stated above, and would be pleased to offer additional information or clarification should any member of the committee or legislature wish.

We would like to thank Senators Hottinger and Sykes for their sponsorship of the bill, and all the co-sponsors for their support.