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Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for allowing me give sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 378.

Senate Bill 378 will simply allow Jefferson County Court to change physical locations of their courtroom. One of Jefferson County's courtrooms is currently located in a privately owned building in the Village of Wintersville. This ORC change would allow the court to be moved to a potential new site. The new location is a county owned building, 3.1 miles away, in Cross Creek Township, just outside of Wintersville. In order to facilitate a location change, "Cross Creek Township" needs to be added to ORC 1907.15.

The Judge presiding over this courtroom brought the idea to my attention. Seeing it could only be accomplished through an ORC change, I had this legislation drafted in response. In working with the interested parties, moving the location approximately 3 miles away has no identified downside to public access. The change in statute simply allows the Jefferson County Court flexibility in moving the physical location of the courtroom currently located in Wintersville.

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver testimony on Senate Bill 380. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.