



Ohio Judicial Conference

The Voice of Ohio Judges

House Civil Justice Committee

Paul E. Pfeifer

Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 567

May 3, 2022

Chair Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to submit interested party testimony for House Bill 567 on behalf of the Ohio Judicial Conference.

House Bill 567 will improve Ohio's online civil case docket system and make the practice of law more efficient for Ohio's lawyers. The Judicial Conference has proposed a minor amendment we believe will improve the bill and help clerks and courts avoid potential implementation issues. Our suggestion is to clarify that juvenile court case dockets are not required to be kept online. While R.C. 2151.12 allows juvenile judges to serve as the clerk of their courts, that statute contains a provision allowing juvenile courts to enter into an agreement with the clerk of the court of common pleas, general division, to maintain the juvenile court's docket. We believe the amendment will clarify that juvenile case information will remain confidential, no matter whether the juvenile clerk or general division clerk maintains the case dockets.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 567. We thank the sponsors, Representative Brown and Representative Stewart, for considering our clarification. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul E. Pfeifer". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Paul E. Pfeifer
Executive Director
Ohio Judicial Conference