



Before the
HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Proponent Testimony
House Bill 237

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Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee, my name is Andrew Canan, and I serve as the Senior Manager of Political and Grassroots Affairs for the Ohio Credit Union League. Thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 237, a bill that would modernize county recording processes to accommodate electronic means.

The Ohio Credit Union League is a state trade association representing the collective interests of Ohio's 234 federally and state-chartered credit unions and their more than three million members. With the "people helping people" philosophy at the heart of member-owned financial cooperatives, deploying digital service options to enhance the member experience is right in the credit union wheelhouse.

House Bill 237 is an important step in establishing a baseline service capability across Ohio's 88 counties and transforming traditional recording processes to accommodate digital transaction and service trends. The pandemic has exposed the lack of across-the-board electronic recording and record access for Ohioans and their financial institutions. This includes credit unions, who often need to electronically record property conveyances or remotely access recorded instruments. If enacted, House Bill 237 would enable credit unions, among many others, to better help Ohioans access digital financial services and transactions.

The increasing digital service delivery expectation across the business community continues to highlight the need for a consistently reliable, and now digital, local government transaction process. As essential service providers, Ohio credit unions offer sophisticated and secure mobile and digital account access to the lending, deposit, investment, payment, and financial education solutions critical to consumers and small businesses. Without adequately modernized public partners, some communities across the state may find it challenging to connect directly with vital aspects of a property transaction, such as searching for or recording an electronic instrument.

Finally, we believe recent changes to the bill appropriating federal American Rescue Plan Act funds will help keep property transaction costs fair and affordable for consumers. This money will help improve system capabilities, paying dividends in the future by making government entities more efficient for all Ohioans.

The League applauds Representative Hillyer for his leadership in modernizing vital government services to better assist private partners, like credit unions, in meeting Ohioans' evolving needs and expectations. Ohio credit unions look forward to further empowering members through convenient and consistent service experiences if this legislation is enacted.

Thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 237, and I am happy to provide additional information or field questions supporting the Committee's important work.