



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Representative Thomas Hall

House Government Oversight Committee

April 7th, 2022

Sponsor Testimony HB 524

Good morning Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking member Brown, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 524, legislation aimed at modifying the notice requirements for certain government functions. Legislation also known as, "Innovate the Code."

So how exactly is this done? How does one "innovate the code?" HB 524 will save Ohio taxpayers millions of dollars by simply modernizing the revised code. Many of our state departments are still being required to use outdated methods to send or publish information, these methods are not only outdated, but also are becoming increasingly expensive compared to modern methods that are at our disposal. Chairman Wilkin, I have sent over a document to outline several of these changes along with the estimates of the money the state would save by making these changes. Rather than going through the over 300 page bill, I will go over some of the larger ones to touch on for this testimony.

Through the Department of Taxation- by replacing certified mail with electronic delivery of tax assessments estimated savings of \$3.4 million every year.

EPA- provide public notice on EPA website instead of in newspapers and electronic correspondence instead of certified mail, this will save \$750,000 every year

ODNR-allow electronic submission of oil and gas application, reports, test results, fees, etc. This will save \$102,000 annually.

ODOT- allow advertisement of contract bids electronically. This will save \$86,000 annually.

Public Safety-require electronic submission of court records and abstracts pertaining to traffic violations. This will save \$73,000 annually.

These are just some of the proposed changes. For a full list of changes in the current sub-bill, please reference the document my office has sent over through the chair.

Simply put, this is a "good government" bill that simplifies and streamlines in a way to save an estimated \$44 million in taxpayer dollars and over 58,000 hours of labor through efficiency improvements over the next 10 years. This is a piece of legislation that we can all rally behind to



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make Ohio more efficient and save taxpayer money. We all talk about the regulation of government and simplifying these processes, this is the perfect bill that accomplishes both.

This has been a project that I'm honored to have worked on with Lt. Gov. Husted, CSI, and several of our state agencies in a partnership to modernize Ohio state government and save taxpayer dollars. I will also point out there is a companion bill to this piece of legislation, Senate Bill 279 with Senator Wilson. With that, I proudly support these bills and I would happy to take any questions that you have at this time