

Dear Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair _____, Ranking Member _____, and members of the Committee,

I am Morrow County Commissioner Tom Whiston.

I am testifying today as a proponent of HB 405.

Morrow County Hospital is one of only five hospitals still organized under Ohio Revised Code 339 wherein the hospital is fully a part of county government.

We are also the only County that has both our two Common Pleas Judges preside over all four divisions of the court.

The current wording confusingly suggests, in our unique situation, that one judge could hold both positions and could cast two votes. This was neither the intent of the legislation nor the determination by former Chief Justice Thomas Moyer.

The proposed legislation takes into account this unique situation and provides each of our current judges a single vote. It also clarifies that each Commissioner casts a single vote, as practiced in Morrow County since 1951, and as affirmed by the Ohio Supreme Court in August 2020.

I thank the Sponsors of the bill and appreciate the opportunity to address you. I am available to answer any questions.

Thank you,

Tom Whiston
Commissioner
(419) 560-1595