

**Proponent Testimony HB405**

**March 22, 2022**

**Dear Chairman Gavarone, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Mahavath, and members of the Committee,**

**I am Morrow County Commissioner Tom Whiston**

**I am testifying today as a proponent of HB405**

**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 the only County that has both of 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 cast two votes. This was neither the intent of the legislation nor the determination by former Chief Justice Thomas Moyer on two separate instances.**

**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 a unanimous ruling of the Ohio Supreme Court in August of 2020.**

**Our Country has held the belief for well over 200 years that "One man has one vote" and passage of this bill will insure that practice remains intact.**

**HB405 passed out of House Committee 11-0 and by the entire House 98-1.**

**I appreciate your time and attention and thank the Sponsors of the bill.**

**Thank you,**



**Tom Whiston**

**Morrow County Commissioner**

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