



**Before the
OHIO HOUSE
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Proponent Written Testimony
House Bill 181**

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Chair Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the Ohio House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 181, 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 218 federally and state-chartered credit unions and their 3.2 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 181 is essential in establishing a new baseline of service capability across Ohio's 88 counties and transforming traditional recording processes to accommodate digital transaction and service trends. The pandemic exposed the lack of across-the-board electronic recording and record access for Ohioans and their financial institutions. This includes credit unions, which often need to record property conveyances or access recorded instruments electronically. This legislation would enable credit unions, among many others, to better help Ohioans access digital financial services, obtain information, and expedite 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 processes. 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 keep pace with vital aspects of a property transaction, such as searching for or recording an electronic instrument.

Another positive provision of the bill is the section requiring authorized law enforcement agencies to notify both the owner and lien holder of a towed vehicle. Current notification requirements are unclear, at times leading to a delayed notice that a vehicle was towed, increasing recovery and storage penalty fees for credit unions.

The League applauds Representatives Hillyer and Williams for their 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 181. Please feel free to contact me if I can assist the Committee with its important work.