

SPONSOR TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 600  
Submitted by Representative Daniel Troy

Good morning Chairman Peterson, Vice-Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 600 for the committee's consideration.

I have introduced this bill at the request of the elected officials of one of the municipalities in my district. It is intended to discourage frivolous actions filed under this section of the revised code to remove officials from office by requiring the complainant to pay for the legal costs of the action for all parties should the complaint be dismissed or result in an acquittal.

Officials in the community have indicated that a small group of disgruntled citizens (5 are required to submit the complaint) have unsuccessfully filed these actions with the County Probate Court on a regular basis. They have indicated that responding to these actions has not only consumed significant taxpayer resources but has also caused non-paid citizen planning commission members to be the victims of unfounded accusations and damage to their personal business relationships.

The bill is not intended to stifle legitimate actions by citizens permitted under this section of the code; it is rather intended to ensure that there are consequences for those accusations that lack merit.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members. I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.