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House State and Local Government Committee, Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 373
April 23rd, 2024

Chair John, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 373 which will allow a clerk of court to conduct certain motor vehicle inspections. When I say “inspection” I mean an individual verifies that the make/model and VIN number match the description on the title.

There are three instances when a vehicle inspection must be done in the state of Ohio. First being when a vehicle is registered out of state and the individual is applying for an Ohio title. Second, is when an off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle does not have an Ohio title, and third when an off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle is registered in a different state and then the owner applies for an Ohio title.

Currently there are only two entities that can perform this inspection. A deputy registrar’s office (the BMV) or a licensed Ohio motor vehicle dealer may perform this service. This legislation would allow a clerk of court of common pleas (Title Office) to the list of entities that are authorized to conduct a physical inspection on motor vehicles, motorcycles, and all-purpose vehicles when they are applying for a vehicle title. If passed this would offer another location for vehicle inspections to be conducted, and most importantly, it would allow an individual to receive a title and inspection all in one place.

This law does not change the current \$5 fee for the inspection. Also, this legislation does not require a clerk to offer this service if they are unable, it only allows them the option to do so.

The reason for this legislation is because of a personal experience – and then I found out that many others had this same experience. [Insert personal story].

This simple bill is optional for clerks and would create better service for the public.

Thank you once again for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on this important and common-sense legislation, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.