



WAYNE COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS

TIM NEAL, CLERK

215 N. Grant St.
Wooster, Ohio 44691

Good afternoon, Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. I am Tim Neal and I am the Wayne County Clerk of Courts. I am happy to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 373, which allows a Clerk of Court of Common Pleas to conduct motor vehicle inspections when the owner applies for an Ohio certificate of title.

I support the passage of House Bill 373 because it will allow Common Pleas Clerks of Court to provide better customer service to citizens. Under current law, when a customer comes into our title office to obtain an Ohio title for a car they purchased in another state, the customer must have an out of state vehicle inspection performed before we can issue an Ohio title.

Because current law does not permit a Clerk of Court to perform the inspection, we have to send the customer to a location that is authorized to conduct out of state inspections. This may be to a Deputy Registrar, an automobile dealership, or an Ohio State Highway Patrol location. Once the customer has had the vehicle inspected, the customer must then return to our office to complete the title transfer process.

If Clerks of Court are authorized to do the inspection, the customer does not need to make stops at multiple locations and is much better served. This should always be our goal as public servants.

As drafted, House Bill 373 makes the authority to conduct out of state vehicle inspections permissive for the Clerks of Courts. I want to stress that this flexibility is important because some of the clerk offices may not have the staff or flexibility to perform out of state inspections.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 373. You can reach me at 330-287-5590 or tneal@waynecourts.org if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Tim Neal
Wayne County Clerk of Courts