

Sheriff Richard K. Jones
Butler County Sheriff's Office
House Bill 187 Proponent Testimony

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing me to come give proponent testimony on HB 187 today. I am here today to explain how this will affect my community if this situation isn't resolved.

We have seen this issue before in Butler County, and as Sheriff I have overseen far too many Sheriff's Sales with families losing their homes. While it is an obligation of my position it is not something that I take lightly and the less my office has to deal with it the better. However, with many of the financial strains my community has been under and looks to be continually put under, I would expect that number of Sheriff's Sales to be rising soon if we don't do anything. Right now we are dealing with 150 sales annually, and it was not too long ago we were dealing with upwards of 3000 during the financial crisis a little over a decade ago. We do not want to return to that. This isn't a secret when I tell you people are upset. I'm hearing anger and frustration from people that I would never expect it. Many of whom are still trying to deal with rising food prices and the previous property tax increase just a short while ago. This situation has the potential to devastate our community and I don't want to have local law enforcement have to be the ones to pick up the pieces.

Chairman Roemer, and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to speak to this important issue and I would be happy to take any questions the committee may have for me.