



SENATOR STEVE WILSON

Government Oversight and Reform Committee
Senator Steve Wilson
January 17th, 2023
Senate Bill 18

Good morning Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee. Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 18, which modifies the notice requirements for certain government functions. We have come to call this legislation, “Innovate the Code”.

Some of you may remember this as SB 279 from the last general assembly. This legislation has been in collaboration with Lt. Gov John Husted and his team, The Common Sense Initiative. Early in 2020, CSI launched a project, in partnership with Innovate Ohio, which utilized an artificial intelligence (AI) software tool along with human collaboration to reform Ohio’s regulatory landscape. The tool uses text analytics to quickly research and analyze Ohio’s Revised and Administrative Codes, providing policymakers with more opportunities to streamline regulations. This has identified places in administrative rules and statutes that have not caught up with the speed of business and advancing technology, where outdated methods of communicating or in-person interactions are required.

So how are we “Innovating the Code”? Senate Bill 18 will save the taxpayers millions of dollars by modernizing the revised code. Too many of our departments are still required to use outdated methods to send or publish information, these methods are not only outdated but also are becoming increasingly expensive compared to modern methods. I have sent to the chair a document outlining these changes along with some of the estimates of money the state would save by making these changes. I will go over some of the larger ones briefly:

- Department of Taxation – replace certified mail with electronic delivery of tax assessments, this will save \$3.4 million every year.
- EPA – provide public notice on EPA website instead of in newspapers and electronic correspondence instead of certified mail, this will save \$750,000 every year.
- ODNR – allow electronic submission of oil and gas application, reports, test results, fees, etc. This will save \$102,000 annually.
- ODOT – allow advertisement of contract bids electronically. This will save, \$86,000 annually.
- Public Safety – Require electronic submission of court records and abstracts pertaining to traffic violations. This will save \$73,000 annually.
- Along with many more! For the full list of changes in the current sub bill please reference the document my office had sent over.

Plain and simple, this is a “good government” bill that simplifies and streamlines its way to save an estimated \$44 million in taxpayer dollars and 58,000 hours of labor through efficiency improvements over the next 10 years. This has been a project that I am honored to have worked on with Lt. Gov Husted, CSI and several of our state agencies. With that, I urge support for SB 18. I would be happy to take any questions that you have.