



Ohio Judicial Conference

The Voice of Ohio Judges

May 17, 2023

Testimony on SB 122

Chairperson Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Minority Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am here to testify on SB 122, which seeks to codify Criminal Rule 46. I am Paul Pfeifer, the Executive Director of the Ohio Judicial Conference and I am part of a larger group of signatories to the letter included with my testimony. This group of attorneys and judges is directly involved in decisions of pre-trial release, detention, and bail. The group includes the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, the Buckeye Sheriffs Association, and the Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

What we are asking today is that Criminal Rule 46 be placed, in its entirety into the Revised Code to provide an uninterrupted, consistent and uniform approach to pre-trial release, detention, and bail in Ohio. That said, the situation is more complex than that. For one thing, Issue 1 made public safety a factor that must be considered in making decisions about pre-trial release, detention, and bail – those words rightly belong in the Code as well. Further, some statutory language already exists relevant to pre-trial release, detention and bail; that language should be consistent with Criminal Rule 46 language and may need to be altered.

The Ohio Judicial Conference stands ready to help and we are here today to answer any questions you may have.