



# Ohio Clerk of Courts

**Ohio Senate  
Judiciary Committee  
April 23, 2024**

## **Proponent Testimony on HB 305**

Good afternoon, Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Branden Meyer and I am the Fairfield County Clerk of Court and Legislative Co-chair of the Ohio Clerk of Courts Association. Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent on House Bill 305, which requires clerks of court to accept electronic court filings (“e-filing”).

The Ohio Clerk of Courts Association has been working on e-filing language with Representatives Brian Stewart and Richard Brown for close to a year. We are supportive of the concept of e-filing and recognize that it is the way of the future. Specifically, we are supportive of two key provisions within this bill:

- 1. Permitting the clerk to use the computerization funds with sole authority of the county commissioners*

Current law requires the judge to determine if, for the efficient operation of the clerk’s office, the clerk may access the money in the computerization fund to purchase upgraded technology, and then the county commissioners to authorize the disbursement of the funds. We are seeking an amendment to allow the clerks to access the computerization funds without an order from the judge. The clerks are best positioned to determine the technology and computerization needs of the office and can work directly with the county commissioners to authorize the use of funds and the county treasurer to disburse the funds.

- 2. Extending the implementation period after the bill’s effective date*

We are supportive of the delay in implementation for two hundred seventy days after the effective date of the bill to allow time for our clerks to implement an e-filing system, if needed. Today, currently approximately 40 clerks accept electronic filing through their case management systems. Updating the remainder of these case management systems will take a significant amount of time and effort for the clerks and their offices. Many Clerks will have to work with vendors to upgrade the case management systems in their offices, contributing to the significant amount of time it can take to make the adjustment. For example, CourtView, one of our most-utilized vendors, is backed up and counties have been on a wait list to transition their case management system, which may take several months.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 305 and we welcome any questions from the committee.

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