



**State Representative Mark Johnson  
Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 123**

**House Local Government Committee**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Chairwoman King, Vice Chair Kishman, Ranking Member Sims and members of the House Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 123.

House bill 123 is a simple fix to a simple problem. This bill creates a simple process to fill vacancies in financial offices after the November election. This bill came about because of a situation in Ross County. After the November election the incumbent for the County Auditor resigned mid-term leaving a vacancy in the office. What followed was a month of chaos. Within one month Ross County saw three different auditors. With this chaos nothing can be done and no good can come of this.

House Bill 123 will create provisions that situations that Ross County saw after the election never happen by providing the framework for filling vacancies. If there has been an election and the results have been certified it stands to reason that the person, the people voted in should be able to fill the vacancy in the office they were just elected to. House Bill 123 allows this to happen. So long as the candidate who won the election has their certificate of election, they will be able to fill the vacancy left by the incumbent to keep the office on track and to make sure the work still gets done and there is no chaos that results in a month of nothing getting done and a month of constant turnovers.

This is a commonsense bill to me. Thank you for allowing me to testify on HB 123 and we will be glad to take any questions the committee may have.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.