



**OHIO RECORDERS' ASSOCIATION**  
Danny Crank, Legislative Chair

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**HB 49 Proponent Testimony**  
**Danny Crank, Ohio Recorders' Association**  
**Ohio Senate Finance Committee**  
**Chairman Scott Oelslager**  
**June 14, 2017**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice-Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell and members of the committee, my name is Danny Crank, and I am the Legislative Chairman of the Ohio Recorders' Association and the Butler County Recorder. I am testifying today to oppose the changes in the Senate's HB 49 substitute bill which removed language that creates a predictable recording fee for many documents in Recorders' offices. In an effort to keep my testimony brief, I have provided some high level bullet points outlining the proposal.

- As passed by the House, HB 49 proposed to alter the structure of recording fees in county recorders offices to develop a predictable recording fee. This means that instead of a fee based on the number of pages in a document (as is the current practice), this proposal creates a predictable "per document" fee for many commonly recorded documents.
- Due to changes in technology and updated practices around the country, this proposal leads to greater predictability for the public and industry when recording documents such as deeds and mortgages. Consumers will be better informed regardless of the number of pages within a document.
- Due to a wide variety of the types of documents that are recorded and their associated number of pages, transactions may cost more or less since individual variations of pages would no longer determine the fee. This means that by restructuring to a predictable fee system for individual transactions it can actually lower the costs of recording in some instances.
- The last time recording fees changed was in 2003 when recording fees doubled. However, please know that the fee did not benefit county government revenues as the increase exclusively went to the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.
- The last time recording fees were changed that benefited county government was 1994. That was 23 years ago. You will be hard-pressed to find many entities operating in 2017 at 1994 levels.
- The predictable fee proposal also helps with the fight against opiate addiction by providing funds to assist those in recovery from addiction and substance use disorders by dedicating up to \$6 million generated by recording fees to provide recovery housing and support.
- Lastly, the House passed language extends current law by ten years which permits County Recorders to retain up to \$3 per document in their technology fund for the technology needs of their office. This would extend this vital provision through January 1, 2029 to ensure Recorders' offices are properly equipped to serve the public.

Thank you Chairman Oelslager and members of the committee for allowing me to testify. The Ohio Recorders' Association urges the Senate to restore the As Passed by the House language creating a predictable recording fee. At this time I will answer any questions the committee may have.