

### 83 House District

Hancock, Hardin,  
And Logan Counties

### Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street  
13th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111  
(614) 466-3819  
(800) 282-0253  
(614) 719-0000 (Fax)  
[Rep83@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep83@ohiohouse.gov)  
[www.ohiohouse.gov](http://www.ohiohouse.gov)



### Committees

Energy and Natural Resources  
Energy Sub-committee on  
Energy Generation  
Finance  
Finance Sub-committee on  
Transportation  
Financial Institutions  
Public Utilities

## Jon Cross State Representative

Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Ohio House Civil Justice Committee, it is my pleasure to introduce to you today House Bill 637. This bill would reallocate responsibilities of current and future judges of the Hardin County Court of Common Pleas.

It aims to make Hardin County Judges have a more equal distribution of work. A family court and a general court will be established in the county. The family court will oversee all juvenile and domestic relations, while the general court would continue all civil, criminal, and probate jurisdictions.

If this bill were to be enacted, Hardin County would join 15 other counties in the state that have domestic relations and juvenile jurisdiction within a single division. The legislation would keep the judge's terms staggered as they are currently, and would keep the probate judge on the current probate election track. The timing is crucial in swiftly passing this legislation, as if enacted this year, it will avoid any disruption in services for either of the currently elected and serving judges, and additionally avoids forcing the county to pay for a special election midterm for a probate judge.

Senator McColley has a companion bill in the Senate so it hopefully moves swiftly. It has received support from the Hardin County Bar Association, the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Hardin County Commissioners, Hardin County Sheriff, and the Hardin County Auditor.

Thank you again for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions.