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**House Civil Justice Committee  
Mike Rodgers, Director of Policy and Legislation  
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Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski and esteemed members of the Civil Justice Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony as an interested party on House Bill 286 on behalf of the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

The Attorney General's Office is required under Ohio law to provide legal representation to the state's executive agencies, boards, and commissions. These proceedings have traditionally taken place in Franklin County, but under HB 286, appeals could be heard in an appellant's county of residence or in the county where an appellant's business is located. Handling cases in Franklin County is more than simply a convenience for our staff—it also represents a significant savings to Ohio taxpayers. Under the current structure, attorneys in downtown Columbus can attend hearings in minutes with virtually no travel time. Under HB 286, these same attorneys will now be required to cover cases in all 88 counties for any party adversely affected by any order. In extreme cases, staff could be in the car for hours to reach a hearing that might last less than 30 minutes. Making an existing and low-cost process more expensive for Ohio taxpayers is an outcome we would prefer to avoid.

Having raised these fiscal concerns, we understand the desire of the sponsor to ensure Ohioans have the ability to seek review of an administrative decision in a court populated by their elected jurists. By testifying about the increased costs to our office from this legislation, we hope the legislature might consider a future appropriation providing resources to our office depending on how prevalent these appeals become around the state.

Thank you again Chairman Hillyer and members of this committee for allowing me to submit this written testimony.