



## Common Sense Initiative

**Mike DeWine**, Governor  
**Jon Husted**, Lt. Governor

**Sean McCullough**, Director

**March 16, 2022**

### **Senate Bill 279 Proponent Testimony Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 279 on behalf of Ohio's Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Office. My name is Sean McCullough, and I am the Director of CSI.

I'm glad to discuss with you recently introduced and much anticipated legislation that is a result of efforts by CSI and InnovateOhio – along with partnering state agencies – to modernize and innovate Ohio's rules and regulations.

Regulations must reflect the way we live and work in today's world. Outdated laws and regulations are costly and can slow down business, potentially stalling innovation and job creation.

The reforms we are making in this legislation remove outdated communications requirements and unnecessary barriers from the Revised Code. These reforms move the needle on our goal of improving customer service across state government while also, over the next 10 years, saving an estimated \$44 million in taxpayer dollars and saving the state approximately 58,000 hours of labor through efficiency improvements.

You may remember from our previous announcement that CSI collaborated with InnovateOhio to bring an A.I. tool to state agencies to help review state laws and regulations with an eye toward improving customer service while saving taxpayer dollars.

And now, Senator Steve Wilson has introduced the culmination of that effort to date – our Innovate the Code bill represented as Senate Bill 279.

This legislation works to remove outdated processes and unnecessary in-person interactions from the Revised Code.

By modernizing our laws to reflect advancing technology and evolving customer service standards, state agencies will be able to better support the 21<sup>st</sup> century needs of Ohio's businesses and citizens.

Plain and simple, this is a "good government" bill – it simplifies and streamlines, and it saves taxpayer time and money.

There are over 100 provisions that are expected to not only save money, but also save time.

For example: One change allowing the Ohio Department of Taxation to communicate with taxpayers electronically instead of through 600,000 pieces of certified mail every year will save an estimated \$3.4 million annually.

This change will not only save taxpayer dollars, but it will streamline the process for business and individual tax filers by transmitting important tax information through a one-stop-shop online portal.

Another change will permit Ohio's Bureau of Motor Vehicles to conduct driver's license suspension hearings remotely, rather than the current requirement that they take place physically in Columbus.

This change will save Ohioans potentially an entire day of travel, along with the burden of taking a day off from their jobs.

Further, there are nearly 50 instances where an agency is required to send correspondence or notice via mail, which through this bill, would now allow for electronic correspondence. There are nearly 40 instances where we will eliminate unnecessary in-person and physical interaction with government for Ohio businesses and citizens, and over 20 instances to remove archaic terms of communication like telefax, telegram, fax, videocassette, and others.

Additionally, these reforms allowing for electronic communications and interactions are permissive and do not change the requirement that the state provide notice and due process to folks that may not have internet access.

Overall, the reforms included in this legislation are expected to save Ohio taxpayers \$4.4 million and 5,800 hours of labor per year.

I'm proud to say that the legislation has already earned support from good government groups including the Buckeye Institute and Americans for Prosperity - Ohio.

I'm thankful for the work of our sponsor Sen. Steve Wilson for carrying this through the legislative process.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to answer any questions.