

Proponent Testimony
Senate Bill 14
Ohio Association of Election Officials

Chair Gavarone, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Maharath and members of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee:

My name is Michelle Wilcox. I am Director the Auglaize County Board of Elections and president of the Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAEO). OAEO is the bipartisan association that represents Ohio's 88 county boards of elections. I am pleased to offer our association's support for Senate Bill 14 and thank Senator Rulli for his work on this legislation.

SB 14 is very straightforward. It changes the name of the Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners and expands that board's purview to include the certification of voter registration systems. Both changes are common sense and reflective of how elections have modernized over the years.

The first modification merely changes the name of the Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners (BMVE) to the Ohio Board of Voting Systems Examiners (BVSE). This is consistent with the purpose and mission of the Board which has, for several years now, examined and certified more than just voting equipment.

The second change would require voter registration systems to be certified by the Board of Voting System Examiners. Currently, the BMVE certifies voting tabulation systems and electronic poll books. The addition of voter registration systems is both practical and impactful. While voting systems and poll books are important pieces of the elections system, they are only used a couple times a year. Our voter registration system is the backbone of our information technology

systems. A faulty or inaccurate voter registration system causes issues that ripple throughout the rest of the elections system. Creating a process to test and certify these critical systems will serve Ohio's boards of elections and Ohio's voters well. SB 14 puts in place reasonable and well-established practices that mirror our successful certification program for other elections related technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on SB 14. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee might have.