



# County Auditors' Association of Ohio

66 East Lynn Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215 • (614) 228-2226 • Fax: (614) 228-8901 • [www.caaao.org](http://www.caaao.org)

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## Proponent Testimony on HB 34

Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

March 22, 2017

Chairman Coley, Vice Chairman Uecker, Ranking Member Yuko and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 34. The County Auditors' Association of Ohio appreciates Representative Hambley's sponsorship of this measure and offers our support. The bill authorizes state agencies, local governments, and certain boards, commissions, and officers to deliver particular types of notices by ordinary mail and other mode of Internet communication. The bill lists 29 situations where the alternative notification procedure may be used. According to the fiscal note, this could reduce mailing costs for the affected jurisdictions; savings will depend on the circumstances where these alternative notification options are used. As a point of comparison, the certified mail rate established by the U.S. Postal Service for 2017 ranges from \$4.61 to \$6.59 for a one ounce certified letter. This bill is an important step in streamlining communications from county government operations. The reduction in certified mail requirements will not only significantly reduce counties' expenditures on mailings but will improve the means of communication with constituents.

Moving forward in the Senate, County Auditors suggest additional Revised Code sections to be considered: notice of failure to file an initial application or a renewal application for CAUV (ORC 5713.31, paragraph 2), notice of incomplete or incorrect initial application for CAUV (ORC 5713.31, paragraph 5), and denial of application and failure to file renewal application for Agricultural District (ORC 929.02(A)(2) & (C)). We believe these have been approved by Representative Hambley, the bill sponsor.

County Auditors also strongly suggest that notices can be sent by ordinary mail or Internet communication, rather than both. Thank you for your consideration.