



**Senate Bill 25**  
**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Sponsor Testimony – Senator Jay Hottinger**  
**February 7, 2017**

Chairman Bacon, Vice-Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on SB 25, which will create the Perry County Municipal Court and establish a full-time judgeship in that court.

Senate Bill 25 is identical to Senate Bill 299 which passed unanimously out of the Ohio Senate last November.

Senate Bill 25 will establish of the Perry County Municipal Court, it will designate the Perry County Clerk of Courts as the clerk of the Perry County Municipal Court and it provides for the election of one full-time judge for the Perry County Municipal Court.

Senate Bill 25 is needed because in 2013, the Village of New Lexington ceased operations of its mayor's court to cut costs. Thus, increasing the caseload at the other Perry County Courts.

In 2014, a review team at the Supreme Court of Ohio came to Perry County to see if a full-time judgeship in Perry County would be necessary. The review team examined the data and determined that the Perry County Court would experience a sizeable increased workload as a result of the closure of New Lexington Municipal Court.

The Ohio Supreme Court review states that increased demands would be placed on the judge and court staff to maintain effective case management. As a result, the review team concluded that the conversion of the part-time judgeship into a full-time judgeship ensured the goals of judicial efficiency and access to justice would be maintained and not compromised.

It is my hope you will report SB 25 out of committee to ensure the Perry County judicial system is best equipped to serve the interest of justice and the people of Perry County.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this bill. I will answer any questions the committee may have.