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Senate Bill 96 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Judiciary Committee
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Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on SB 96. This bill was re-referred to this committee from Local Government. You previously heard sponsor testimony on our other Cleveland Housing Court bill, SB 103 on April 10th.

SB 96 grants the Cleveland Housing Court concurrent jurisdiction with Cuyahoga County's Court of Common Pleas in appeals regarding administrative officers and agencies (2506 appeals).

The Cleveland Housing Court's jurisdiction in these matters would run concurrent with the jurisdiction of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, by expanding the Housing Court's jurisdiction to include the right to hear review or appeal of any administrative officer, agency, board, department, tribunal, commission or other instrumentality that relates to a local building. The court of common pleas currently holds exclusive jurisdiction of these appeals in Cuyahoga County.

The bill would create the same shared jurisdiction as the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas and the Franklin County Municipal Court Environmental Division, and would free up the Cuyahoga Court of Common Pleas to devote greater time to handling serious violent crimes.

The Cleveland Housing Court judge will be providing proponent testimony on this proposal. It is also supported by the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, the Cuyahoga County Council, and the Cleveland Municipal Court.

Thank you, Chairman Eklund and members of the committee for allowing us to speak to this legislation. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.