



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

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House Bill 531
Written Proponent Testimony
February 8, 2022

Chairman Hillyer, Vice-Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski and Members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer written proponent testimony for House Bill 531 to allow a county prosecutor, in his or her sole discretion, and with approval of the board of county commissioners, to contract with a regional council of governments, metropolitan planning organization, or regional transportation organization to serve as their legal adviser.

Current law allows county prosecutors to contract with a board of park commissioners, a joint fire district, a joint ambulance district, a joint emergency medical services district, a fire and ambulance district, the board of trustees of a regional airport authority or a port authority, and with a regional planning commission. House Bill 531 is merely an extension of these concepts that would allow our members to provide legal services to the above mentioned entities. Given the nature of the work of regional councils in working with state and local governments to make them more efficient and effective, it makes sense to include them in the list of entities to which county prosecutors may permissively act as their legal adviser. These arrangements can be mutually beneficial to all involved. They allow the prosecutor's office to provide another public service, they allow these statutory entities that are promoting the public good to receive quality legal representation at a more steady rate, and they ultimately benefit the taxpayer.

We would like to thank Representative Ghanbari along with the Ohio Association of Regional Councils for their work on this and for their outreach to our Association to garner our input and support. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 531. We encourage the committee's favorable consideration of the bill.