



County Auditors' Association of Ohio

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HB 237 Proponent Testimony
County Auditors' Association of Ohio
House Finance Committee
Chairman Scott Oelslager
March 15, 2022

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chairman Plummer, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee. Thank you for allowing the County Auditors' Association of Ohio (CAAO) the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 237.

HB 237 would modernize electronic records and conveyances in the offices of County Auditors, County Recorders and County Engineers across the state. For the ability to process real estate transactions and to better serve the public there is an urgent need for the use of technology to provide for the online accessibility of records and the ability to process conveyances using the electronic recording (eRecording) process.

Recently, several counties have been able to utilize CARES Act funding to back-scan old record books but there is still more work to be done. HB 237 is designed to continue this push forward by establishing a baseline standard in the Ohio Revised Code for all County Recorders to have images of recorded documents scanned, indexed, and available online for recorded documents dating back to January 1, 1980.

HB 237 provides a consistent standard across the state to provide greater efficiency and convenience by requiring all 88 counties to offer eRecording as a delivery option for documents to be recorded. When recording a deed or conveyance document, the process includes County Recorders, County Auditors, and many County Engineers as well. The County Auditors and County Engineers will be able to implement systems to ensure that documents can be recorded electronically with the County Recorders' office.

In sum, HB 237 would enable counties to be more efficient through the use of technology and also establish a uniform standard across the state for recording these transactions electronically.

Thank you again for allowing the CAAO to submit proponent testimony for HB 237.

Respectfully submitted,

George Kaitsa
Delaware County Auditor
Co-Chair, CAAO Technology Committee