



Common Sense Initiative

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

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House Bill 524 Proponent Testimony House Government Oversight Committee

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 524 on behalf of Ohio's Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Office. My name is Sean McCullough, and I am the Director of CSI.

I'm glad to discuss with you legislation that is a result of efforts by CSI and InnovateOhio – along with partnering state agencies – to modernize and innovate Ohio's laws and regulations.

Regulations must reflect the way we live and work in today's world. Outdated laws and regulations are costly and can slow down business, potentially stalling innovation and job creation.

The reforms we are making in this legislation remove outdated communication requirements and unnecessary barriers from the Revised Code. These reforms move the needle on our goal of improving customer service across state government while also, over the next 10 years, saving an estimated \$44 million in taxpayer dollars and saving the state approximately 58,000 hours of labor through efficiency improvements.

You may remember from our previous announcement that CSI collaborated with InnovateOhio to bring an A.I. tool to state agencies to help review state laws and regulations with an eye toward improving customer service while saving taxpayer dollars. And now, Representative Thomas Hall has introduced the culmination of that effort to date – our Innovate the Code bill represented as House Bill 524.

House Bill 524 works to remove outdated processes and unnecessary in-person interactions from the Revised Code. By modernizing our laws to reflect advancing technology and evolving customer service standards, state agencies will be able to better support the 21st century needs of Ohio's businesses and citizens.

Plain and simple, this is a "good government" bill – it simplifies and streamlines, and it saves taxpayer time and money. As an example, one change allowing the Ohio Department of Taxation to communicate with taxpayers electronically instead of through 600,000 pieces of certified mail every year will save an estimated \$3.4 million annually. This update will not only save taxpayer dollars, but also streamline the process for business and individual tax filers by transmitting important tax information through a one-stop-shop online portal.

Another change will permit Ohio's Bureau of Motor Vehicles to conduct driver's license suspension hearings remotely, rather than the current requirement that they take place physically in Columbus. This

change will save Ohioans potentially an entire day of travel, along with the burden of taking a day off from their jobs.

Further, in our proposed sub bill, there are nearly 50 instances where an agency is required to send correspondence or notice via mail, which through this bill, would now allow for electronic correspondence. There are nearly 40 instances where we will eliminate unnecessary in-person and physical interaction with government for Ohio businesses and citizens, and over 20 instances to remove archaic terms of communication like telefax, telegram, fax, videocassette, and others.

It is important to note that these reforms allowing for electronic communications and interactions are permissive and do not change the requirement that the state provide notice and due process to Ohioans that may not have internet access.

Overall, the reforms included in this legislation are expected to save Ohio taxpayers \$44 million and 58,000 hours of labor over ten years.

I'm proud to say that the legislation has already earned support from good government groups including the Buckeye Institute and Americans for Prosperity - Ohio.

Finally, I'd like to thank our sponsor Rep. Thomas Hall for carrying this through the legislative process.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to answer any questions.