Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

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Executive Director
House Bill 150 - As Passed by the House
Proponent Testimony
December 6, 2022

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 150, As Passed by the House. I also want to thank the bill sponsors as well as their colleagues in the House for their support of our prosecutors' offices, and recognition of the critical work that they do in our communities, by making assistant prosecutors who are employed by the prosecuting attorney of a county eligible for the Rural Practice Incentive program.

Prosecutors' offices across the state, like public defender offices, and counties that utilize appointed counsel are struggling right now to recruit and retain lawyers locally, especially on a long-term basis. While this is a problem even in our metropolitan areas, it is most noticeable in the more rural areas of the state where prosecutors struggle to compete with the salary offers and other incentives that exist in our urban counties and that come from both the private and public sectors.

Across the state, elected prosecutors and their assistants work every day to keep communities safe, to secure justice for the victims of crime, to provide quality legal services to county government, and to uphold the rule of law. Because of a commitment to public service, they most often do this for less than they would make in private practice. Attracting and retaining high quality lawyers to do this work is essential to the fair administration of justice and the operation of county government in Ohio. The inclusion of prosecutors in the Rural Practice Incentive program will help our elected prosecutors attract more lawyers to rural Ohio to this work. We encourage the Committee's favorable consideration of the bill and hope to see it become law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.