



# OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*State Representative Andrea White*

## HB 76 – Sponsor Testimony House State and Local Committee 3-21-2023

Chair John, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on House Bill 76, affectionately known as “Innovate the Code.”

Currently, in the State of Ohio, there are 200+ years of rules and regulations enshrined in our Ohio Revised Code and Administrative Code. These statutes have been patched together both through the methodical committee process such as today, as well as in the wee hours of a lame duck night. This patchwork can make it difficult for our citizens and our businesses to navigate and comply with – especially if they don’t have access to tools that are increasingly becoming obsolete. Tools like the fax machine and the telegram – how many here have actually sent a telegram in their lifetime? These have been replaced with more modern vehicles. Also replaced: the video cassettes that some of us still have in boxes or drawers at home with our family’s memories captured. Our code is filled with requirements like these that are outdated, burdensome, and duplicative. These provisions are harming Ohioans by stalling innovation, slowing down our businesses, and costing our taxpayers unnecessary time and money in this day and age.

As you have already heard from Representative Hall, HB 76 will help to alleviate these issues by substantially updating statutory provisions to streamline interactions between our state government entities and the private sector, as well as modernize the way we do business and communicate with our citizens. A large number of notification requirements have been innovated, replacing “costly and slow” with new provisions allowing for electronic means to send and publish information. For instance, the State Board of Education will no longer be required to record their public meetings “in a book provided for that purpose,” but instead can use electronic means.

Changes have also been made to allow for electronic submission of documents by citizens and businesses, and to permit remote appearances at certain hearings and meetings to save time and eliminate barriers for our citizens. One example is that individuals who request a hearing on their license suspension for failure to have vehicle insurance can now appear before the Registrar remotely.

How were all these changes discovered? Some of you who’ve been around as long as the fax machine may remember that in early 2020, Lt. Governor Jon Husted and his team from The Common Sense Initiative launched a project in partnership with Innovate Ohio utilizing an artificial intelligence software tool to help humans in government reform Ohio’s regulatory

landscape. Part of the AI tool's job was to hunt for places in Ohio's Revised and Administrative Codes where policymakers could work with state agencies and stakeholders to collaboratively streamline regulations and eliminate outdated communications and unnecessary in-person interactions. The almost 350 pages of this bill are the result of this effort and, as Rep. Hall indicated, the documents provided to the committee outline \$44 million dollars and 58,000 hours of cost and time savings for both taxpayers and our government professionals so we can all do more for less.

But we're not done yet. AI is still not as smart or experienced as our collective human citizenry and we invite all Ohioans to get in touch with us if you have more ideas on how we can remove barriers and make their lives and businesses run more smoothly. With that, I want to thank Representative Hall for inviting me to join him in this bill and I thank Lt. Governor Husted and his team for their laser sharp focus on making it easier to do business with the State of Ohio. Chair John and committee, thank you for this opportunity to present on HB 76. We welcome your support to help Innovate the Code and any questions you may have at this time.