



Ohio Clerk of Courts Association

**Ohio House
State and Local Government Committee
May 14, 2024
Proponent Testimony on HB 373**

Good afternoon, Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. My name is Branden Meyer and I am the Fairfield County Clerk of Courts and Legislative Co-chair of the Ohio Clerk of Courts Association. Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent on House Bill 373, which allows a Clerk of Court of Common Pleas to conduct out-of-state VIN inspections when the owner applies for an Ohio certificate of title.

First and foremost, I want thank Representatives Wiggam and Stewart for working on this bill.

Under current law, when an out-of-state VIN inspection must be done in Ohio, only the BMV's Deputy Registrar's Office or an Ohio licensed motor vehicle dealer may perform the inspection. This bill would allow for a Clerk of Common Pleas to perform these inspections. We are supportive of this for a few reasons.

1. The bill allows for an individual to obtain their inspection and certificate of title in location. If the Clerk were allowed to perform such inspections, an individual could get their inspection done and obtain their title in the Clerk's office, rather than traveling to multiple offices to obtain the same inspection and certificate of title.
2. The bill does not require the Clerk to perform this duty, rather it is an option. We are supportive of this option to allow Clerks to perform this additional service, as several of the Clerk of Courts in our association have expressed interest in performing these inspections.
3. We are also supportive of the Clerk's ability to charge a \$5.00 service fee to a Clerk that conducts an inspection. The service fee amount is the same for Deputy Registrars and motor vehicle dealers that perform this same inspection so we are supportive of the uniformity of charging the fee.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 373 and I welcome any questions from the committee.

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