

Testimony Regarding the Automatic Title Processing System Board

On Behalf of the Ohio Clerk of Courts Association

SUNSET REVIEW COMMITTEE

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Senator Kris Jordan, Chair

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Chairman Jordan, Vice-Chair Brown and Members of the Sunset Review Committee, my name is Cindy Hofner and I am the Clerk of Courts in Wood County. I am here today along with ATPS Board members Bernie Quilter, Clerk of Courts in Lucas County, and Todd Bickle, Clerk of Courts in Muskingum County, to testify in support of continuing the Automated Title Processing System Board (ATPS Board). First, let me briefly explain the history of the ATPS Board.

The ATPS Board was created pursuant to ORC 4505.09(C)(1). The ATPS Board consists of:

- The Registrar or the Registrar's representative;
- The President of the Ohio Clerks of Court Association or the President's representative;
- Two Clerks of Courts of Common Pleas appointed by the Governor;
- The Director of Budget and Management or the Director's designee (nonvoting member);
- The Chief of the Division of Watercraft in the Department of Natural Resources or the Chief's designee (nonvoting member); and,
- The Tax Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee (nonvoting member).

The purpose of the ATPS Board is to facilitate the operation and maintenance of an automated title processing system and approve the procurement of automated title processing system equipment. The ATPS Board shall determine each of the following:

- The automated title processing equipment and certificates of title requirements for each county;
- The payment of expenses that may be incurred by the counties in implementing an automated title processing system; and
- The repayment to the counties for existing title processing equipment.

Two dollars of the amount received by the Registrar for each certificate of title is paid into the state treasury to the credit of the ATPS fund. The money in the ATPS fund, which is currently around \$31 million, is used to purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire any automated title processing equipment and certificates of title that the ATPS Board determines are necessary.

The ATPS connects all eighty-eight (88) counties via one hundred forty (140) title offices with the State of Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This sophisticated automation allows our title offices to process over five million titles annually, while collecting over one billion dollars in sales tax and related fees. The ATPS Board ensures the integrity of the computer system, as well as protects Ohio's consumers. The checks and balances designed within the ATPS assists various law enforcement agencies and the Ohio Department of Taxation with issues such as odometer fraud, stolen vehicles, and tax fraud. The title offices interact with financial institutions, vehicle dealerships, businesses, and residents on a daily basis with their titling needs pertaining to the purchase of motor vehicles, boats, motorcycles, all-purpose vehicles, etc. Ohio is one of only a handful of states that has the ability to issue residents a certificate of title while they briefly wait.

As many of you may know, the Department of Public Safety has been working to update the current ATPS system with ATPS Blue. This has been a long and complicated process, and the new system is expected to be implemented in January 2017. We are at a critical point with the ATPS system and the Board's input is essential. Moreover, as the new system is implemented, the Board will inevitably need to work through unanticipated implementation issues, as we have experienced in the past with the implementation of previous versions of ATPS.

In addition to the ATPS Blue implementation next year, the ATPS Board will also still need to continue its work to approve equipment, consultants and other necessary expenses associated with the new ATPS system.

As you can see, the ATPS Board remains a vital entity that needs to continue its important functions. Thank you for your time, and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.