



Ohio Judicial Conference

The Voice of Ohio Judges

House Judiciary Committee

Shawn Welch

Proponent Testimony on House Bill 386

October 8, 2025

Chair Thomas, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Synenberg and members of the House Judiciary Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to submit proponent testimony for House Bill 386 on behalf of the Ohio Judicial Conference. I am Shawn Welch, Deputy Legislative Counsel for the Ohio Judicial Conference.

The OJC's Probate Law & Procedure Committee has reviewed and discussed H.B. 386. We support the bill's simple but important change to the application process for an Ohio marriage license. H.B. 386 adds a new requirement that each person seeking a marriage license must present current and valid documentary proof of identity in the form of any of the following: a passport; a driver's license or permit; or any government or school-issued identification card showing the person's date of birth. Although the age verification and proof of identification requirements are new in statute, they mirror the current practice in the probate courts.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit our proponent testimony on H.B. 386. We thank the sponsors, Representative Abrams and Representative Odioso, for introducing this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.