



**Am. H.B. 214**  
126th General Assembly  
(As Reported by H. Judiciary)

**Reps. Hughes, Combs, C. Evans, Latta, McGregor, Seitz, Setzer**

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Modifies a private citizen's authority to file an affidavit charging an offense.
- Retains the authority of a private citizen to file an affidavit charging an offense with the judge of a court of record, a prosecuting attorney or other attorney charged by law with prosecuting offenses, or a magistrate (reviewing officials) but specifies that the purpose of the filing is for review to determine if the prosecutor should file a complaint.
- Modifies a private citizen's authority to file an affidavit charging an offense with the clerk of a court of record so that the private citizen may file the affidavit with the clerk only before or after the normal business hours of the reviewing officials if the clerk's office is open at those times and requires the clerk to forward the affidavit to a reviewing official when the official's normal business hours resume.

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**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

**Filing an affidavit to cause an arrest or prosecution**

Under existing law, a peace officer or a private citizen having knowledge of the facts, in order to cause the arrest or prosecution of a person charged with committing an offense, may file an affidavit charging the offense with the judge or clerk of a court of record or with a magistrate. The peace officer or private citizen also has the option of filing the affidavit with the prosecuting attorney or other attorney charged by law with prosecuting offenses for the purpose of having the prosecuting or other attorney file a complaint. (R.C. 2935.09.)

The bill authorizes a peace officer who has knowledge of the facts and seeks to cause an arrest or prosecution to file an affidavit charging an offense with

a "reviewing official" or the clerk of a court of record. As used in the bill, "reviewing official" means a judge of a court of record, a magistrate, or the prosecuting attorney or other attorney charged by law with prosecuting offenses in a court or before a magistrate. (R.C. 2935.09(A) and (C).)

The bill authorizes a private citizen who has knowledge of the facts and seeks to cause an arrest or prosecution to file an affidavit charging an offense only with a reviewing official for the purpose of review to determine if the prosecuting attorney or other attorney charged by law with prosecuting offenses should file a complaint in the court or before the magistrate. A private citizen may file an affidavit charging an offense with the clerk of a court of record before or after the normal business hours of the reviewing officials if the clerk's office is open at those times. A clerk who receives an affidavit before or after the normal business hours of the reviewing officials must forward it to a reviewing official when the reviewing official's normal business hours resume. (R.C. 2935.09(B) and (D).)

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## **HISTORY**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>JOURNAL ENTRY</b>
Introduced	04-21-05	p. 697
Reported, H. Judiciary	10-11-05	pp. 1718-1719

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