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Committees

Education-Chair
Rules and Reference

REP. ANDREW O. BRENNER

Chairman Oelsager, Vice Chairman Coley, Ranking Member Skindell and members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee. I am here today asking for your support for House Bill 277. House Bill 277 will eliminate the potential for double taxation within a 911 tax district.

Earlier last year Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O'Brien approached my office requesting an amendment to chapter 5705.252 division (BB) of Ohio Revised Code. Delaware County has a countywide 911 system. The county also has a couple municipal subdivisions that also have their own 911 systems. They are the City of Columbus and the City of Dublin. Delaware County would like to exclude those municipal subdivisions from the taxing district in order to avoid the payment of a double tax. Currently Ohio Revised Code will not allow for those subdivisions to be carved out of the tax district. House Bill 277 would allow for the exclusion of territory that will not be served by the 911 system, and only tax those within the area served by the 911 system.

This is a pressing issue because Delaware County's 911 system is up for renewal, and is due to be expiring at the end of 2015. The last year of collection for the levy is 2016. It was going to be placed on the ballot last spring; however the levy was not placed on the ballot because of the error in the code found by Prosecutor O'Brien. I was approached with the issue after the cut off time for amendments had occurred for the budget, which is why I introduced the bill. Delaware County is hoping to place something on the ballot this spring, but with the filing deadline approaching they might be forced to push it off until a special election later next summer.

I appreciate your consideration and support for House Bill 277 and I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.