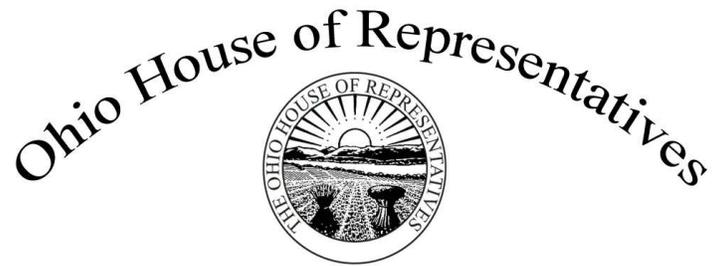


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Scott K. Ryan

State Representative, District 71

Thank you Chairman Seitz, Vice-Chair Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford, and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, for giving me the opportunity to speak as the primary sponsor of HB 133 today.

HB 133 would exempt out-of-state disaster businesses and qualifying out-of-state employees from certain taxes and laws with respect to disaster work on critical infrastructure performed in this state during a declared disaster. This legislation will allow communications companies, utilities, and other infrastructure companies to rapidly deploy resources and out of state personnel without being hindered and delayed by regulatory and tax paperwork. This is meant to accelerate restoration efforts and get the state's citizens, businesses and infrastructure on the road to recovery at a faster rate.

Out-of-state businesses and employees engaging in disaster work in Ohio during the temporary time frame would be exempt from filing any documents before engaging in the disaster work. They would also not need to register, file or remit state or local taxes or be subject to any state licensing or registration requirements for a set period of time for both themselves and their equipment. Employees and employers will instead continue to be subject to taxes and other requirements in their home state during this period. This bill would additionally exempt such businesses and employees from Ohio's workers' compensation and unemployment compensation.

HB 133 will amend the public services law, state law and tax law, in relation to thresholds for establishing presence, residency or doing business in the state for out-of-state employees and businesses that temporarily provide resources and personnel in the state during a state of emergency. This expedites the often enormous and overwhelming task of cleaning up, restoring and repairing damaged buildings, equipment and property. HB 133 gives these businesses a greater ability to focus on quickly responding to the needs of the state and its citizens during an emergency.

Thank you Chairman and members of the committee. I ask for your favorable consideration of HB 133 and I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.