



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE OHIO HOUSE STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

HB 323

**ASHLEY BREWSTER
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NOV. 29, 2017

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, my name is Ashley Brewster and I am the Director of Communications for the Ohio Municipal League. I appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony today on HB 323.

HB 323 would authorize all municipal corporations that charge a garbage collection fee to certify unpaid amounts to the county auditor, who would then enter the fees on the property tax list to be collected in the same manner as real property taxes.

When authorized to do so, a municipality can deal with unpaid municipal garbage fees this way: the unpaid amounts are first certified to the county auditor via municipal ordinance. The fees then become a lien on the property in order to then to be collected in the same manner as real property taxes.

Due to an oversight in current law, this garbage fee collection process only exists for municipalities in chartered counties. This means people living in municipalities located in one of the two non-chartered counties in the state can essentially avoid paying municipal garbage fees due to a lack of a uniform mechanism for the collection of these fees across all municipalities.

For municipalities located in those two non-chartered counties, their only options for collecting unpaid municipal garbage fees include taking an individual to small claims court – a process that is time-consuming, costly and wholly unnecessary. Municipalities already certify other types of fees – for example, sidewalk assessments or nuisance abatement charges – to real property taxes. By correcting this oversight in the law, collecting unpaid garbage fees will become substantially easier for many municipalities.

Our members support the creation of a mechanism by which all municipalities, regardless of the county in which they reside, are able to collect the fees they are owed. We are grateful Rep. Patterson has elected to correct this discrepancy in the law and we ask that you support the passage of HB 323.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.