



**January 24, 2018**

**MEMBERS OF HOUSE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

**JON HONECK, SENIOR POLICY ANALYST**

**PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON HB 415**

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Good afternoon, Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Minority Member Holmes and members of the Ways and Means Committee. My name is Jon Honeck, and I am a Senior Policy Analyst for CCAO. CCAO thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 415.

CCAO supports HB 415 because we sincerely appreciate the legislative intent to provide increased assistance to local governments. We ask that there be as much flexibility as possible for counties to direct state revenue sharing dollars to the capital needs as identified by local officials in each county.

HB 415 creates the Local Government Road Improvement Fund and requires 50 percent of surplus state revenues to be allocated to this new fund each year. The bill also creates a state Local Government Road Improvement Fund to distribute state revenues to 88 county Undivided Local Government Improvement Funds.

Money would be distributed by the state to each county based on the proportion of locally maintained center lane miles in the county – county, municipal and township - as compared to the total number of locally maintained center lane miles in the state.

The bill further provides that within each county, the county treasurer would be required to distribute to each subdivision an amount based on the proportion of center lane miles in the county that are maintained by that subdivision. Money distributed by the state would be used for local road improvements.

CCAO held two internal committee meetings where the provisions of HB 415 were discussed. CCAO would like publicly to thank Representatives Greenspan and Ryan for their sponsorship of HB 415, and additionally thank Representative Greenspan for speaking to the CCAO Committee where this bill was considered.



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During the course of our internal deliberations it became clear that while highway funding is a very important issue for counties, there are other financial needs, for example, the need for additional county sewer funding, or replacing outdated and undersized correctional facilities, or repairing and replacing other capital improvements that are pressing in individual counties around the state. So, while our members genuinely appreciate the intention of helping local governments through a revenue sharing program, they asked us to convey our members desire for more flexibility in the use of the revenue sharing dollars.

I wish to thank this committee for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 415. I would be happy to try to answer any questions from members of the committee at this time.