



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

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H.B. 653

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Howse, Ashford

BILL SUMMARY

- Permits a county to establish a participatory budgeting process and specifies the procedures to be used if a county opts to implement participatory budgeting.
 - Allocates \$1 million per fiscal year to each House of Representatives' district to be used for public improvements selected under the participatory budgeting process.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

County participatory budgeting – overview

The bill permits a county to establish a participatory budgeting process. Under this process, members of the public submit proposals for public projects. The projects must be related to the construction, acquisition, or improvement of public works, buildings, or other improvements benefiting the county. A county participatory budgeting commission, appointed by the board of county commissioners, evaluates the submitted project proposals. Once the commission selects a proposal, the board of county commissioners must direct the county board of elections to submit the proposal to the electors at a general election. If the proposal is approved by the electors, the board of county commissioners must take steps to execute the expenditure of funds for the proposal.

Establishing a county participatory budgeting commission

If a county decides to implement a participatory budgeting process, the board of county commissioners must adopt a resolution to establish a county participatory budgeting commission. At a minimum, the resolution must include:

- (1) The process for appointing members of the public to the commission;
- (2) The total number of members to be appointed (there must be at least four);
- (3) A requirement that the commission membership must include at least one county commissioner and at least three members of the public who are residents of the county.

The bill also provides that a board may adopt any other resolutions necessary to implement a participatory budgeting process.¹

Commission responsibilities

A county participatory budgeting commission must:

- (1) Oversee the county's participatory budgeting process;
- (2) Establish a process under which members of the public may submit project proposals;
- (3) Hold public hearings to consider the proposals;
- (4) Select the proposals for submission to the electors.

The bill places two limitations on the selection of proposals: (1) each selected proposal must be examined at least once in a public hearing, and (2) the selected proposal or group of proposals cannot cost more than the amount allocated to the county (see "[Funding Mechanisms](#)," below).²

Project approval by electors

After a commission selects a proposal, the board of county commissioners must adopt a resolution directing the county board of elections to submit the proposal to the electors at a general election occurring at least 150 days after the resolution is adopted.³

Payments for approved projects

If the electors approve the proposal, the board of county commissioners must certify the results to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) and adopt a

¹ R.C. 357.01 and 357.04.

² R.C. 357.02.

³ R.C. 357.03(A).

resolution approving the expenditure of the funds for the project.⁴ OBM must then transfer the approved amount of funds for the proposal from the state Participatory Budgeting Fund (created by the bill) to the county treasurer for deposit in the county's general fund. The transfer must be made no later than the last day of the month in which the proposal was approved. The amounts transferred to a county by OBM in any fiscal year must not exceed the amount allocated to each county for that year.⁵

Funding mechanisms

Under the bill, \$1 million will be allocated to each House of Representatives' district per fiscal year. If a district covers more than one county, the \$1 million must be divided proportionally based on each affected county's population.

The bill also requires OBM to replenish the Participatory Budgeting Fund at the end of each fiscal year. To do this, by June 30 each year, OBM must calculate the total amount of funds transferred to counties for participatory budgeting projects and transfer that amount from the GRF to the Participatory Budgeting Fund.⁶

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-15-18

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⁴ R.C. 357.03(B).

⁵ R.C. 126.60 and 126.61.

⁶ R.C. 126.60 and 126.61(D).

