



## **Sponsor Testimony**

**Representative Dave Greenspan**

### **House Bill 157**

Chair Oelslager, Vice-Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 157.

#### **What is the issue or problem we hope to address with this legislation?**

Simply speaking, this bill seeks to provide economic support to our local partners in Ohio's Counties for ongoing quality of life issues by providing funding for Senior Services. One common and growing demand on our local communities is the services that we provide to our seniors – the funding approach outlined in House Bill 157 will help provide them with much-needed resources. Our seniors have been and continue to be productive members of our communities. This commitment will demonstrate our respect for their contributions as we assist them in meeting their needs.

This is a growing population demographic with growing financial needs. According to data provided by the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University:

- In 2010, 14.7% of residents of Franklin County were over the age of 60, 18.6% of Hamilton County was older than 60, and 21.3% of Cuyahoga County was older than 60. Only 4 counties – Jefferson, Monroe, Ottawa, and Noble, had a 60+ population of more than 25%.

- Next year, in 2020, those numbers are projected to rise to 18.1% in Franklin County, 23.6% in Hamilton County, and 27.1% in Cuyahoga County. Furthermore, the vast majority of Ohio's counties, 67 of 88, are projected to have more than 25% of their residents be 60 or older.
- By the year 2050, Franklin County is projected to have 21.5% of its population over 60, Hamilton is projected at 28.3%, and Cuyahoga is projected at 32.7%. Scripps' projections also show all 88 counties having more than 20% of their populations be older than 60, with 59 counties projecting a 60+ population of more than 30%. Of those 59, 16 are projected to have between 35% and 50% of their residents over the age of 60. As Ohio's citizens age and their needs and numbers grow, so too does the funding demand for adult and senior services.

Among those services, the Ohio Department of Aging offers through their regional offices: Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs, Senior Community Service Employment Programs, Health & Wellness Programs, Nutrition Programs, and Senior Centers. Additionally, during our operating budget hearings earlier this year, this committee heard testimony regarding the funding needs of Adult Protective Services across the state, to manage and address the increasing volume of reports of elder abuse. Ohio's senior services not only help provide for our elderly, but help protect them as well.

### **So how does this legislation help?**

House Bill 157 seeks to provide additional funding to counties for local senior services by directly distributing 50% of state surplus revenue into a newly created Treasury fund – the Local Government Adult and Senior Services Fund. Disbursements from this fund shall be directly distributed to our county treasurers for senior services in an equitable and fair manner.

Each county treasurer will receive an appropriation from the fund based on that county's senior population as calculated by the OBM director and certified by the county auditor. None of that money could be used for any purpose other than support of adult protective services or senior services and facilities.

Additionally, this legislation adds a provision that is intended to provide relative reliability, predictability and sustainability for our local and county-level partners in relations to budgeting, forecasting, and for providing general guidance as to state local government funding. Basically, this bill provides that no General Assembly shall reduce the funds credited to a local government fund to an amount that is less than the current 1.68% from the General Revenue Fund. This is critical, that we provide the basic “floor” funding to our local partners – it is my hope and desire that we exceed this minimum, but at least we set the framework for financial stability.

This is important legislation because it sets a value proposition that we understand and support our local partners and we also recognize the importance of providing care for our senior citizens and we are committed to providing an equitable method for supporting these important services.

Thank you your consideration of the bill and I am available for your questions.