



Representative Brian Baldrige
Representative Cindy Abrams
Sponsor Testimony- House Bill 444
State and Local Government Committee
February 4th, 2020

Representative Abrams

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee; thank you for affording us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 444.

As many of you are aware, Ohio's 1,308 townships are creatures of statute. Therefore, unless specifically authorized under Ohio Revised Code, townships often lack many of the rights, processes, courtesies, and operational latitudes otherwise afforded to Ohio's municipal corporations via constitutional home rule. Accordingly, townships commonly must ask the Ohio General Assembly for legislative permission to enact any new abilities to carry out their duties to the public.

After consultation with the Ohio Township Association (OTA), we introduce House Bill 444 to authorize items requested from townships across Ohio. These measures will empower Ohio's 1,308 townships, allowing for improved service and operational flexibility at our local levels of government.