



**Ohio Senate
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Committees:

Rules and Reference, Vice Chair
Agriculture
Finance General Government and Agency
Review Subcommittee
Government Oversight and Reform
Local Government, Public Safety, and
Veteran's Affairs
Ways and Means

**Senate Bill 252
House Government and Accountability- June 20, 2018**

Thank you, Chairman Blessing, for giving me the opportunity to speak to Senate Bill 252, a bill which will allow local elected officials to simultaneously serve on their Convention and Visitor's Boards.

When I served as a County Commissioner, it was (and still is) common practice for a County Commissioner to serve on the local Convention and Visitor's Bureau's board, along with a variety of other boards in their capacity as County Commissioner. These opportunities provided Commissioners not only with a better understanding of the challenges facing the CVB board, but it also provided the opportunity to better coordinate efforts in visitor entertainment and attraction. In our small, rural county, this involvement helped focus our limited resources on opportunities that had the most potential. Our service on these boards allowed the county to better maximize the economic opportunities in the most fiscally responsible way by leveraging multiple agencies and perspectives on the best investment.

Senate Bill 252 clarifies that local elected officials or their designee are permitted to sit on the board of their local Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Additionally in Senate Ways and Means Committee, a provision was added that will allow County Treasurers and Municipal Fiscal Officers to share their hotel lodging tax information with the Convention and Visitor's Bureau. This is a good government bill that recognizes current practice and is supported and encouraged by the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the County Commissioner Association. The bill passed the Senate unanimously.

Thank you for your time and attention, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.