



**HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE
H.B. 372 - PROPONENT**

Provided on May 10, 2022 (Written Only)

Chair Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and Representatives on the House Commerce and Labor Committee:

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Ohio would like to express support for H.B. 372, legislation that would create an expedited building appeals process.

AGC of Ohio is a construction association that represents large and small, union and open shop (non-union), commercial building and industrial contractors from across the state. Our members build vertical structures in both the public and private arenas. They can work with building departments from the very start of the project during the plan approval process; throughout the building inspection process; and until the final occupancy permits are received by the owner.

Representative Roemer and Ray's efforts to help the building industry with this legislation is appreciated. We thank them both and this committee for adopting an amendment to address concerns of municipalities by expanding the time frame for an expedited hearing to five days after the appeal is requested (excluding holidays and weekends). We have also learned that as drafted, H.B. 372 ensures potential remedies within the local building department (outside of litigation) are exhausted before an expedited appeal can be requested. These two items – in conjunction to the Ohio Board of Building Standards' ability to create rules related to the expedited appeals option – should curtail negative impacts to local and state building appeals boards' services, and prevent any undue burden to those who serve on the boards.

AGC of Ohio appreciates the committee's consideration and urge you to favorably report H.B. 372.