

93rd House District

Vinton County
Jackson County
Gallia County
Lawrence County



Committees

Energy and Natural Resources
Chairman
Finance Committee
Finance Subcommittee on
Transportation
Insurance Committee
Public Utilities

Jason Stephens State Representative

Chairman Stoltzfus, Vice Chair Dean and Ranking Member Brown, thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 101 today.

House Bill 101, the County Jail Funding Formula, creates a financing system for the state to aid counties in construction or renovating county jail facilities. By modeling the Jail Funding Formula from Ohio's school construction formula, we are using a formula that has proven successful, time and again.

This proposal would allow the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to work together with the Ohio Department of Corrections to develop the funding formula. Since this chapter has yet to be enacted, no counties have received any assistance "under this Chapter." All counties are going to start fresh, so to speak, so that should not be a problem.

This formula will follow 3 requirements:

- Rank counties and award them funds based on need, such as income per capita, property value and sales tax revenue capacity.
 - This provision would help those counties with lower retail sales rank higher than the counties with higher sales in their county.
- Develop a matching program where the state will match a certain percentage of construction of a county jail based on the same factors used in ranking. Similarly to the school construction formula, state dollars would only be used for construction costs.
- OFCC and ODC will work directly with the respective county to establish the best possible solution for a new jail using projections of use and other means of establishing the size of a jail.