



STRONGER COUNTIES. STRONGER OHIO.

209 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986
Toll Free: 888-757-1904 • www.ccao.org

Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

Senate Local Government and Elections Committee
Substitute House Bill 405 – Proponent Testimony
Rachel Massoud Reedy, Policy Analyst

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Chair Gavarone, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on Substitute House Bill 405.

Substitute House Bill 405 seeks to clear up any remaining ambiguity in the code related to the appointment of county hospital boards of trustees. The language clarifies that the appointing authority of a county hospital board includes the three county commissioners, the probate judge of the county senior in point of service, and the judge, other than the probate judge of the county senior in point of service, of the court of common pleas of the county senior in point of service. The bill clarifies that each of these individuals receives one vote when determining appointments. These changes are consistent with Supreme Court of Ohio rulings on this matter.

CCAO supports the language clarifying that the appointing authority of a county hospital board in a charter county includes the county executive rather than the board of commissioners. There are two charter counties in Ohio, one of which owns and operates a county hospital. Thus, this inclusive language is critical.

CCAO supports this legislation and clarification of the code section to ensure there is not confusion during this important process of appointing county hospital board members. CCAO thanks Representatives Stewart and Johnson for introducing this legislation and respectfully asks the committee to favorably report Substitute House Bill 405.

