



Ohio House Economic and Workforce Development Committee
Proponent Testimony HB375
April 30, 2024

Chairman Swearingen, Vice Chairman Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch and members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB375.

The Ohio Land Bank Association (“OLBA”) would first like to thank Representatives Steve Demetriou and Tom Patton for introducing HB375, and the General Assembly for its ongoing support of Ohio’s County Land Banks. There are now 69 county land banks throughout the State of Ohio, spanning rural and urban counties.

Beginning in 2009, and again in 2014, the General Assembly passed omnibus bills supporting the creation and operation of county land banks. These bills, in each case, are revenue neutral, but extremely helpful by allowing land banks to remove promote housing, stabilize the tax base, remove legacy blight and create economic development and job opportunities throughout the State of Ohio. As county land banks continue to evolve and adapt to address their community’s needs, HB375 is a necessary bill to ensure county land banks have the tools to continue to lead community revitalization throughout Ohio. HB375 contains two main areas:

1. Substantive or “operational” provisions; These are focused on operational efficiencies, cost savings and promoting responsible transactions of vacant, abandoned and delinquent properties.
2. Statutory clarifications.

This HB 375 was passed in virtually the same form by the Ohio Senate (formerly SB 112, Sen. Dolan) in the last General Assembly. It had three readings in the House and on the cusp of passage, but we ran out of time. These clarifying and technical changes can be found throughout the bill and explained by the comprehensive LSC description of the bill that the Senate passed in the last General Assembly (former SB 112, Dolan, M.).

We very much appreciate the General Assembly’s support of the State’s 69 county land banks and are available to address any questions during the pendency of this legislation.

Chairman Swearingen, Vice Chairman Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch and members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB375.

Sincerely,

Gus Frangos
President & General Counsel,
Cuyahoga County Land Bank
Board of Directors,
Ohio Land Bank Association