

Columbus Office:
Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street, 10th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Phone: (614) 644-6041
Fax: (614) 719-6956
Rep19@OhioHouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov



Committees:
Primary & Secondary
Education, Ranking

Finance
Finance Subcommittee on
Primary & Secondary Education

Financial Institutions

Higher Education

Phillip M. Robinson Jr.
State Representative
Ohio House District 19

House Bill 573 – Increase the Local Government Fund
Sponsor Testimony for House Finance Committee
December 3, 2024

Chairman Edwards, Vice-Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the Ohio House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill (HB) 573, increasing our Local Government Fund (LGF). My joint sponsor, Representative Juanita Brent, and I look forward to productive conversations with the committee and all related stakeholders.

HB 573 will restore cuts made to LGF the percentage of the General Revenue Fund (GRF) that goes to municipalities. Local governments in our areas and around the state continue to struggle due to cuts to this fund back during the 2011 state operating budget. These problems have been compounded by pandemic-related economic factors and the transitions related to federal and state pandemic support and rules either changing or ending.

The LGF has been **reduced by about \$1 billion per year** since 2011. The proposed legislation will restore the LGF to the same percentage of state revenue that the fund received prior to August 2011, back to 2008 levels. This will take the percentage appropriated from the state's GRF from 1.7% to 3.68%. The increase begins in July 2026.

Mayors and municipal council members and trustees in my district have reached out to me often since I was elected, talking about the difficulties they face and how they are in great need of support from the state. As a home rule state, giving our local governments everything they need to operate will best serve the intentions of our state constitution. Ohio taxpayers will also benefit from a larger portion of their tax money returning to their communities to help pay for the vital services and lower the need for local levies. Our local governments are on the frontlines of many of the everyday issues Ohioans face, so they need our help to help Ohioans.

Similar or exact iterations of this bill have been introduced in the past as bills or budget amendments. My hopes are to start the conversation again, in hopes we can provide more support for our local governments.

Chairman Edwards, Vice-Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the committee, I thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions you have.

19th House District: Southeast Cuyahoga County

Bedford – Bedford Heights – Bentleyville – Brecksville – Chagrin Falls Township – Chagrin Falls Village – Cleveland Ward 12 (partial) – Cuyahoga Heights – Glenwillow – Hunting Valley – Independence – Mayfield Heights – Moreland Hills – Newburgh Heights – Oakwood Village – Orange – Pepper Pike – Solon – Valley View – Walton Hills – Woodmere

Printed in house.