

OHIO HOUSE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
PROPONENT TESTIMONY – HOUSE BILL 257

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October 24, 2023

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the Ohio House Government Oversight Committee, on behalf of the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA), thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 257.

RITA is a regional council of governments formed by Ohio cities and villages to collect and administer their municipal income tax as a shared service. Today, RITA's membership includes 385 cities and villages located in 80 of Ohio's 88 counties.

As a large, and growing, statewide organization, RITA welcomes legislation that will permit public meetings to be held virtually, and permit virtual attendance at public meetings.

RITA is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees, the members of which are elected by the cities and villages that participate in the council of governments. RITA's Board of Trustees, as well as the larger council of governments, are public bodies required today to hold public meetings in person, with members required to attend in person to participate.

During 2020, 2021 and early 2022 when the law temporarily permitted virtual public meeting attendance, we saw record participation by our member municipalities from all across the State of Ohio with no disruption to our operations or to the accessibility of our meetings.

The ability to attend public meetings virtually will encourage more statewide participation by our council of governments members, and result in more statewide representation on our Board of Trustees. This in turn benefits all of our member municipalities and the taxpayers we serve all across the State of Ohio.

On behalf of the RITA Board of Trustees and Regional Council of Governments Officers, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 257.