

Representative Thomas Hall
46th House District
House Bill 315 Sponsor Testimony

Chairwoman John, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, as my colleague has previously said, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for HB 315, the Township Omnibus Bill. This is the second consecutive GA that I have sponsored a township omnibus bill, so just like last year we are back with more ways in which we can continue to aide and assist our local townships. In keeping with my Joint Sponsor, Representative Seitz, I will now go into the final 5 provisions of HB 315.

New Community Authority: New Community Authorities (NCA) have helped accomplish development needs across the state. NCAs have helped finance roads, industrial, commercial, and residential projects and have ushered in projects that otherwise would not have been possible. House Bill 33 gave townships with a population of at least 5,000 within counties with populations between 200-400 thousand the ability to create an NCA. This legislation extends the ability to townships with populations of 15,000 in the unincorporated area should the voters choose to do so. Townships need more tools to meet the development goals of the community and the state. This ability will help keep the tax dollars that originated from the township, in the township.

Township License Plate: While the state, counties, and cities have plates specific to their jurisdiction on their vehicles, townships do not. This legislation would allow townships to have a township license plate instead of a county license plate. Township vehicles are not county

vehicles. With over 41,000 centerline miles to maintain, the most in the state, the township-specific plates would help identify township vehicles on the road.

General Fund Money May Be Used for Roads: HB 315 would allow townships to use revenue derived from inside millage to pay for road materials, machinery and labor. This change would allow townships the ability to more fluidly react to necessary road maintenance in their area.

Reinstates Indigent Burial Reimbursement Funding: The indigent burial fund is a significant funding mechanism for all local governments to defray the cost of indigent burials. Traditionally, \$1 million has been put into the indigent burial fund by the General Assembly. However, House Bill 33 failed to include that while still adding an administrative position with a salary of up to \$80,000 to administer the fund. This legislation would re-establish the fund for all local governments to be able to apply for.

Provides Grant Funding to modernize Zoning Regulations & Processes: Ohio is growing and developing at a substantial rate, and to continue to foster that growth we must make sure our townships can allow that growth to happen. This bill would provide \$1.5 Million per fiscal year to townships looking to modernize their zoning regulations and processes in-turn allowing these townships the ability to capitalize on these growth opportunities

Chairwomen John, and members of the House State and Local Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony. We would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time.