

91st House District

Highland County
Fayette County
Pike County
Ross County

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Bob Peterson
State Representative

Sponsor Testimony
H. B. 491

Committees

Chairman
Government Oversight

Finance, Agriculture,
Development, and Natural
Resources Subcommittee

Insurance

Public Utilities

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and other members of the House State and Local Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 491. Representative Young and I stand before you today to speak on the important topic of transparency and accountability in government. Ohioans, now more than ever, need the ability to see exactly where their tax money is allocated.

This is a simple bill that requires political subdivisions to enter both their expenditure information and their revenues on The Ohio Checkbook site for public review. It seems very simple that, in a world where most people struggle to have faith in their government, that we should open more pathways for citizens to review and understand where their money goes. This is an easy and quick way for counties, cities, villages, etc. to provide more information to the people they serve; increasing the trust that citizens have with the organizations that are serving them.

We understand that this may take time for some political subdivisions to enter the required information into the database, but in the end, we feel it is worth it. The Ohio Treasurer is committed to making it as easy as possible to join the Ohio checkbook. The office will be glad to assist public entities, especially our smallest villages and townships. Public records, including those about expenditures and revenues, are one way that citizens can be actively engaged in their local government entities by giving their Checkbook a check-up.

On behalf of the constituents of the 91st House District of Ohio, I strongly support this bill and encourage you to think about your own constituents and if you believe they would benefit in any

way from accessing the expenditure and revenue information of the political subdivisions that they reside in. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bob Peterson
State Representative
Ohio's 91st House District