

The Ohio Homeowners Relief Act – Sponsor Testimony

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 187, the Ohio Homeowners Relief Act.

As many of you may know, property tax in Ohio is determined by the tax rate and property valuation from the previous year. This critical legislation came as a result of recent increases in property valuations, ultimately resulting in steep property tax increases throughout several Ohio counties. Butler and Clermont counties are among several Ohio counties where the tax commissioner is recommending a 42% increase on property value and a 110% increase on farmland. There is no doubt that this projected increase would hurt the vast majority of Ohioans.

After conversations with our constituents, local officials, State Senators and colleagues here in the Ohio House, Representative Bird and I knew we had to take legislative action.

The Ohio Homeowners Relief Act will protect vulnerable Ohioans by modifying the procedures used by the Tax Commissioner to conduct property tax sales assessment ratio studies. Specifically, the bill will require the commissioner to work alongside local elected officials and weigh the past three years of a county's property values in order to determine property tax, instead of just one.

Additionally, this legislation will apply to this tax year and the years going forward.

This common-sense bill will provide peace of mind to those who have concerns about paying for basic necessities, such as groceries, as a result of property tax increases and make Ohio a better place to live.

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy and members of the House Ways and Means Committee. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 187, the Ohio Homeowners Relief Act.