



Ohio House Ways and Means Committee
House Bill 274 – Proponent Testimony
December 5, 2023

Buckeye Association of School Administrators
Ohio Association of School Business Officials
Ohio School Boards Association

Chair Romer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill (HB) 274. Our three organizations represent public school district boards of education, superintendents, treasurers/CFOs, business managers, and other school business officials from around the state.

On behalf of our members, we would like to express our support for HB 274 which would establish an enhanced homestead exemption for long-term homeowners who qualify for the general homestead exemption and have owned their homes for 20 years or longer. Under HB 274, the state would also reimburse local taxing authorities from the general revenue fund (GRF) for forgone revenue resulting from the new enhanced exemption.

As this committee has discussed, we are seeing property values increase at historic levels due to Ohio's strong economy, the lack of housing, and population growth, among other factors. The school community recognizes the burden that could be placed on residents during this unusual time, especially our senior citizens living on fixed incomes. School leaders across Ohio strongly support tax relief for seniors, which will make it easier for seniors to age in place and remain in their homes. We owe a debt of gratitude to our senior citizens and the expansion of the homestead exemption is a tangible way to show that appreciation to our seniors living on fixed income.

We appreciate that under HB 274, the state would reimburse local governments for the foregone revenue resulting from the expanded exemption, just as it does with the existing Homestead Exemption.

Finally, we look forward to discussing and working with the Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform as this General Assembly further explores property tax policy in the coming months. The interconnectedness of Ohio's property tax system and our school funding system – both enshrined in our Constitution – requires a thoughtful and thorough evaluation of any proposal to ensure our tax and school funding systems remain equitable and predictable.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

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