



OHIO SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
June 25, 2024

Written Interested Party Testimony
Senate Bill 245

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Johnson, and members of the Ohio Senate Select Committee on Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written interested party testimony regarding Senate Bill 245, which is one of several bills related to alleviating Ohio's housing crisis.

OML's membership of more than 730 cities and villages represents a diverse array of communities from the largest Ohio cities down to villages of under 100 residents. Every community has its own unique character, culture, and challenges, including a wide variety of challenges related to housing.

We appreciate all the work the Senate Select Committee on Housing has done to delve into this critical issue, to make a wide array of recommendations, and to implement changes through the legislative process – including through Senate Bill 245.

Our goal is for the state to have good public policy that strengthens partnership with municipal government and provides for the stability, preservation, and higher quality of life Ohio residents desire in their communities.

From a municipal perspective, the ability to address housing issues comes down to the resources that are available. Senate Bill 245 makes several changes related to real property law and statutes. Of particular interest to municipalities are the provisions related to speeding up the building inspection process by more quickly certifying building departments and personnel, as well as the requirement that a building department review plans and conduct an inspection for a building construction project within 30 days – or that a certified third-party conduct such inspections.

Among our general guidance to this committee in the past, we highlighted the need for financial resources at the local level and the need to avoid preemptions that would inhibit local governments from having control over what is in the best interests of their community's residents.

Flexibility from the state is essential, and it remains a key aspect of the relationship between state and local governments. In the spirit of cooperation – on this bill and other related bills – we continue to encourage legislators to work with the municipalities they

represent, protect home rule authority, and partner in meeting the needs of Ohio residents at the local level.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on Senate Bill 245 on behalf of the members of the Ohio Municipal League, and please feel free to reach out to us on this matter in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Scarrett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League