

**Committees:**

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**Contact Information:**

Office: (614) 644-6034  
Email: Rep63@ohiohouse.gov

77 S. High St., Columbus,  
OH 43215

**Representative Adam C. Bird**  
**Ohio House District 63**

**Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 101**  
**Before the Senate Committee on Local Government**  
**June 28, 2023**

Chairman O'Brien, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking member DeMora and members of the Senate Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony for HB 101.

In November 2019, the village of Amelia in Clermont County voted to dissolve. Due to the ambiguity in Ohio Revised Code on how to dissolve a village, this led to a 2 to 3 year legal fight that involved the county court, the auditor of state, 2 different townships, the outgoing village leadership, the incoming village leadership, and county wide offices. Some of the issues around winding down the affairs of this village still remain.

It became clear to my joint sponsor and me that Ohio Revised Code needed to change and to bring clarity to how to dissolve a village. We worked on this bill last General Assembly but were not able to untwist all of the issues satisfactorily so that we could bring a bill forward. We did not give up and finally have a bill that we feel good about.

HB 101 does the following to accomplish the task of how to dissolve a village:

1. Clarifies that village officials cease to hold office upon certification of the vote.
2. Clarifies that all ordinances and resolutions cease except for necessary tax levies
3. Establishes a Transition Supervisory Board which is a public body and is comprised of:
  - a. County Auditor
  - b. County Recorder
  - c. County Prosecutor
4. This Board shall:
  - a. Appoint a Receiver-Trustee from a list of individuals provided by the AOS.
  - b. Resolve all debts and liabilities of the former village
  - c. Approve any necessary operations for the residents of the former village

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- d. Resolve legal claims
  - e. Administer any necessary taxes to pay the liabilities of the former village
  - f. Wind down the involvement of the former village in any community improvement corporation, special improvement districts, or tax increment financing arrangement
  - g. Dispose of real or personal property
  - h. Manage utility services until transferred
  - i. Shall turn to the former villages fiscal officer and legal council for consultation
5. This Board shall cease to exist upon final audit approval by the Auditor of State.

House Bill 101 passed the house with 86 yays. My joint sponsor Rep Schmidt and myself are thankful to have the support of the Auditor of State, County Auditors Association, County Recorders Association, County Commissioners Association, and the Ohio Township Association as well as individual members of these associations from back home all of whom you will hear from throughout the committee process.

Chairman O'Brien and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation. I am happy to answer your questions.