

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street  
12th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111  
(614) 644-5094  
[Rep46@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep46@ohiohouse.gov)



Committees  
Energy and Natural Resources  
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Thomas Hall  
State Representative

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Chair O'Brien, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Senate Local Government Committee, as my colleague has previously said, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for HB 315, the Township Omnibus Bill. This is the second consecutive GA that I have sponsored a township omnibus bill, so just like last year we are back with more ways in which we can continue to aide and assist our local townships. In keeping with my Joint Sponsor, Representative Seitz, I will now go into the final provisions of HB 315.

**New Community Authority:** This is an issue that came to prominence in State and Local Committee that led the NCA language ultimately being removed. We will continue to look to have discussions concerning NCA and will have proponent testimony discussing this further.

**Township License Plate:** While the state, counties, and cities have plates specific to their jurisdiction on their vehicles, townships do not. This legislation would allow townships to have a township license plate instead of a county license plate. Township vehicles are not county vehicles. With over 41,000 centerline miles to maintain, the most in the state, the township-specific plates would help identify township vehicles on the road.

**General Fund Money May Be Used for Roads:** HB 315 would allow townships to use revenue derived from inside millage to pay for road materials, machinery, and labor. This change would allow townships the ability to react to necessary road maintenance more

fluidly in their area. This change would mostly be codifying an existing practice, and this clarification of current law would not have any new fiscal effects on townships.

**Reinstates Indigent Burial Reimbursement Funding:** The indigent burial fund is a significant funding mechanism for all local governments to defray the cost of indigent burials. Traditionally, \$1 million has been put into the indigent burial fund by the General Assembly. However, House Bill 33 failed to include that while still adding an administrative position with a salary of up to \$80,000 to administer the fund. This legislation would re-establish the fund for all local governments to be able to apply for. This would re-establish the appropriation while additionally allowing the Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program to use the fund as well.

**Provides Grant Funding to modernize Zoning Regulations & Processes:** Ohio is growing and developing at a substantial rate, and to continue to foster that growth we must make sure our townships can allow that growth to happen. This bill would provide \$1.5 Million per fiscal year to townships looking to modernize their zoning regulations and processes in-turn allowing these townships the ability to capitalize on these growth opportunities. Department of Development would oversee the grants.

Chair O'Brien, and members of the Senate Local Government Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony. We would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time.

