



## **OHIO SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

**May 17, 2023**

### **Written Proponent Testimony House Bill 145**

Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony regarding the Ohio Municipal League's position on Senate Bill 118.

As communities seek to find solutions to a housing crisis that affects not only Ohio communities, but locations beyond our state's border, the Ohio Municipal League's members are embracing creative options to help residents attain the housing of their choice. Senate Bill 118 is another tool in the toolbox to help address the lack of housing, while also allowing Ohioans to embrace home ownership.

The bill creates a state income tax credit for the construction of new owner-occupied single family homes or for the conversion of rental housing into owner-occupied single family homes. Under the provisions of the bill, the Department of Development's Home Ownership Potential Energized (HOPE) program would be limited to municipalities where more than 50% of all housing units are renter-occupied, based on the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent American Community Survey.

Specifically, SB118 would offer either \$50,000 or a 50% tax credit – whichever is less – for expenses used to build or rehabilitate these homes. The bill also allows municipalities to pick the neighborhoods that will be eligible for the tax credits by excluding parts of their territory from credit eligibility. This flexibility is welcomed by our municipal members and provides a proper balance of having a state-level solution while also allowing for local decision-making.

We appreciate Sen. Schuring for recognizing the need for this legislation, working to enhance Ohio communities and provide a higher quality of life for their residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 118. Please feel free to reach out to the Ohio Municipal League on this matter in the future.

Kent Scarrett  
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Ohio Municipal League