



OHIO SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
June 25, 2024

Written Proponent Testimony
Senate Bill 244

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 our support for Senate Bill 244, which would provide municipalities and other local governments with an additional option to provide property tax relief to some of their residents.

The Ohio Municipal League's membership is 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.

Directly related to housing is the ability or inability of low-to-moderate income residents to pay their property taxes. This can keep residents from being able to afford to stay in their homes or move into the type of housing they would prefer. It also has a great impact on the stability and quality of life in neighborhoods found throughout the state.

From a municipal perspective, addressing this issue – to a great extent – comes down to the financial resources that are available to the municipality and what flexibility they have to create and implement solutions.

Senate Bill 244 serves as another tool in the toolbox from which municipalities can find benefit. It provides permissive authority to municipalities and other local governments through the creation of Residential Stability Zones when needed. These zones would provide the option of designating a geographic area where a reduction on increases in assessed property values could occur.

The bill spells out details behind these zones, including tying it to homeowners, specifying that it could be used for those with incomes of up to 80% of area median income, and other administrative matters. Furthermore, local jurisdictions can require their own qualifications for eligibility.

We appreciate Senator Reynolds and Senator Craig for providing this flexible option to municipalities by sponsoring Senate Bill 244, and we urge for its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for Senate Bill 244 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