



OHIO HOUSE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

April 30, 2025

Written Proponent Testimony House Bill 161

Chair Hoops, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Abdullahi, and members of the Ohio House Development Committee:

My name is Kent Scarrett, and I am the executive director of the Ohio Municipal League (OML). On behalf of the league, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 161, a bill that seeks to extend local lodging taxes to short-term rentals.

As a statewide association representing more than 730 of Ohio's cities and villages, we seek to preserve the municipal home rule authority found in Article XVIII of the Ohio Constitution. The powers of local self-government reflect that the best decisions for a community are made closest to home, at the local level.

But unlike other preemptive legislation regarding short-term rentals, this bill supports municipalities by providing them with additional financial resources and tools to manage and benefit from the short-term rental market.

While our member communities largely encourage tourism, whether short-term rentals are good or bad must be left up to individual municipalities. However, by extending lodging taxes to short-term rentals, municipalities can potentially increase their tax revenue. This is particularly beneficial given the growth in popularity of short-term rental platforms like Airbnb and Vrbo, which have become significant competitors to traditional hotels. It will also level the playing field between traditional lodging establishments and short-term rentals.

By requiring short-term rental platforms to collect and remit taxes, the legislation simplifies the tax collection process and reduces the administrative burden on local governments, as they can rely on these platforms to handle tax remittance directly.

We are confident that the additional revenue generated from taxing short-term rentals can be of benefit to municipalities that carry out initiatives related to local tourism and economic development. Therefore, the Ohio Municipal League urges for your support of House Bill 161.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.