

35th House District
Parts of Geauga,
Portage, & Summit
Counties



Columbus Office
77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Committee Membership
Development
Small Business
Technology &
Innovation
Ways and Means

STEVE DEMETRIOU
MAJORITY WHIP | STATE REPRESENTATIVE
OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 35

Contact Information
(614) 644-5088
rep35@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov/
members/steve-
demetriou

Ohio House Bill 159 – The Manufacturing Technologies
Assistance Grant Program

Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Bride Rose Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for allowing Rep. Santucci and me to speak to House Bill 159 which would establish a Manufacturing Technologies Assistance Program (MTAP) here in Ohio.

I would like to take the opportunity to describe the MTAP program in a bit more detail.

Under MTAP, eligible manufacturers would apply to the Ohio Department of Development for funding of up to \$150,000. Applications would be divided into two profiles: companies with 50 or fewer fulltime employees and companies with 51-500 fulltime employees. Companies must be in good standing with all applicable state and local entities to receive funding consideration and would need to complete a technical assessment of the proposed project. Our legislation designates \$24,000,000 in initial funding for MTAP housed under the Ohio Department of Development.

This model has worked well in the neighboring states of Iowa and Indiana. Iowa for Fiscal Year 2025 dedicated another \$2 million to their Technology Investment Program to 33 companies.¹ Indiana's program, launched in 2020, has awarded at least \$57 million to support 526 businesses in 79 counties.²

To stymie the loss of population and jobs across our state, we absolutely need to attract outside companies to come and do business in Ohio. However, considering the competitive national landscape, and Ohio's long history and culture of successful manufacturing businesses, we have a great opportunity to create an environment to organically grow businesses that already call Ohio home.

Thank you, Chair Stewart, for the opportunity to provide my testimony. I urge the committee's support of House Bill 159.

¹ <https://opportunityiowa.gov/press-release/2025-04-18/ieda-board-approves-assistance-two-established-companies-three-community-projects-and-manufacturing#:~:text=The%20Manufacturing%204.0%20Technology%20Investment,and%20integration%20of%20smart%20technologies>

² <https://www.conexusindiana.com/manufacturing-readiness-grants-program-2024-impact-report/>