



OHIO HOUSE HOUSE GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

June 3, 2025

**Interested Party Testimony
House Bill 248**

Chair Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the Ohio House General Government Committee:

My name is Kent Scarrett, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Municipal League. On behalf of the Ohio Municipal League, thank you for the opportunity to provide written interested party testimony regarding the league's position on House Bill 248, a bill that largely seeks to make changes to the duties of the Auditor of State's Office.

We specifically want to highlight sections of the bill that impact the continuing education of municipal fiscal officers and the related oversight.

The bill clarifies that municipal fiscal officers must retain documentation showing completion of continuing education requirements and requires the Auditor of State to audit for compliance. Under the bill, the Ohio Municipal League would be responsible for issuing notices if municipal fiscal officers have not completed the required training. While intended to promote transparency and ensure that municipal fiscal officers remain up to date on best practices in public finance, this language should be removed in favor of the Auditor's Office continuing to carry out what has always been a function of the state.

The continuing education requirements addressed in this bill—particularly for municipal fiscal officers—remain vital for maintaining the fiscal integrity of our communities. Municipal fiscal officers and finance staff regularly rely on the State Auditor's Office as a trusted source of guidance and oversight, and AOS has a long history of providing impactful, high-quality education programs and guidance for municipal fiscal officers. These have been successful precisely because they were initiated at the state level and managed by a state agency with a deep understanding of municipal finance and operations.

We believe it's important that the Auditor of State's Office continues to have the authority to oversee these efforts and to provide guidance to local officials on how to stay in compliance.

Through such changes, the bill will maintain a clear role for the Auditor's Office in auditing for compliance with continuing education requirements, which reinforces accountability and encourages ongoing professional development.

OML has been in touch with the bill sponsor, Rep. David Thomas, and we appreciate his willingness to speak with us about our concerns so this bill can be more beneficial at both the state and local level.

We look forward to working with you all to ensure that these provisions strengthen fiscal integrity and support our municipal partners across Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.