

65th House District:

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Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center
77 South High Street 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 466- 3488
Rep65@ohiohouse.gov
<https://ohiohouse.gov/>

David Thomas

State Representative for the 65th House District

House Bill 274 Sponsor Testimony Before the Ohio House Local Government Committee May 28, 2025

Chair King, Vice-Chair Kishman, Ranking Member Sims, and members of the House Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to join my Joint Sponsor and give Testimony on HB 274, legislation that will both help provide better services to our taxpayers and lower property tax rates. True property tax reform both changes tax policy and lowers spending. HB 274 achieves these aims. Thank you to my joint sponsor Rep. Thomas Hall, who is involved in the first responder space and can very well address concerns regarding service and financials.

The idea for this bill came to me from concerns I am seeing in the very rural, small township part of my district and now I have heard from other similar examples across the state. Entities which currently provide EMS service in a variety of ways are looking to balance budgets by no longer providing that service. They can do this because they know, if their residents call 911, someone will still show up. That is part of the protocol but this is not good government.

Having a service that other people's taxpayers pay for but your residents use leads to higher property tax rates for those who are footing the bill. Good tax policy is a wide base, and a low rate for payers. This is why HB 274 mandates and copies requirements currently on the books for police and fire service. Local entities must have some type of EMS service for their entity. They can do this in a number of ways:

- (1) Directly by the township or municipal corporation via authority granted in the Ohio Constitution or another section of the Revised Code;
- (2) Via district or joint district under authority granted in another section of the Revised Code;

- (3) Via contract under authority granted in another section of the Revised Code;
- (4) Via other authority granted in another section of the Revised Code.”

These variety of ways which entities can provide service are customizable and not overly burdensome. Now, my Joint Sponsor Rep. Hall will provide the carrot to my stick portion of this legislation.