



**OHIO HOUSE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE**  
**October 28, 2025**

**Interested Party Testimony**  
**House Bill 413**

Chair Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the Ohio House Technology and Innovation Committee:

My name is Kent Scarrett, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Municipal League. On behalf of the OML and our 730 member cities and villages, thank you for the opportunity to submit interested party testimony on House Bill 413.

The league appreciates Rep. Peterson's and Rep. Young's intent to increase public transparency and accountability in the use of taxpayer dollars. Our member municipalities share this commitment. Cities and villages across Ohio take seriously their duty to ensure residents can understand how local funds are spent and managed, and they recognize that transparency builds trust in government.

Municipalities already provide significant financial information through multiple platforms and compliance mechanisms. Many local governments make financial data publicly available through their own websites, public records, and annual audits.

For those using the Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) administered by the Auditor of State, key expenditure and revenue data are already standardized and accessible. Additionally, municipalities that have engaged in bond financing or received state or federal grants are already required to meet robust disclosure and reporting standards that ensure financial accountability and public visibility.

The intent behind House Bill 413 aligns with these existing transparency practices. However, we urge that implementation recognize and integrate the tools and systems already in place to avoid unnecessary duplication.

While we support efforts to promote transparency, we caution against creating new layers of reporting that may be redundant or administratively burdensome.

Municipalities vary greatly in size, staff capacity, and technological resources. For many smaller communities, compiling, formatting, and uploading data to a new system could require staff time or software modifications that come at a real cost. Even if the bill intends to utilize existing resources, practical implementation could still create an unfunded mandate if additional administrative work is required without state support.

We therefore recommend:

- Ensuring compatibility with the UAN system and existing financial platforms to minimize reentry of data.
- Providing technical assistance or funding support from the Treasurer of State for the setup and ongoing maintenance required of local governments.
- Allowing flexibility for local governments to link to their own existing financial transparency portals where equivalent data are already available.

Ohio municipalities are eager partners in transparency and welcome opportunities to build public trust. However, to make House Bill 413 successful and sustainable, implementation must be practical, coordinated with existing systems, and cost-neutral to local governments.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.