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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
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H.B. 179  
136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Stephens

Zachary P. Bowerman, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Taxation to establish and implement a property tax relief screening system to evaluate the eligibility of property owners for the 2.5% rollback and the homestead exemption.
- Requires the Department to notify county auditors of any improperly granted tax reductions discovered through the system.
- Appropriates \$7.5 million from the GRF in FY 2026 and FY 2027 to develop the system.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Property tax relief screening system

The bill requires the Department of Taxation to establish and operate a property tax relief screening system to evaluate the eligibility of property owners who receive the 2.5% rollback or the homestead exemption. Each county auditor will have access to the system and must report any errors discovered to the Department. If the Department identifies a property that was improperly granted the tax reductions, it must notify the applicable county auditor.<sup>1</sup>

Under continuing law, the 2.5% rollback reduces property taxes on owner-occupied residences, often referred to as “homesteads.”<sup>2</sup> The homestead exemption applies to certain homesteads – namely those owned and occupied by senior citizens, totally disabled individuals, including veterans, and the surviving spouse of a public safety officer killed in the line of duty.<sup>3</sup> These incentives, which may be applied for and obtained from a county auditor, apply only to an

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 5703.83 and 5703.21.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 323.152(B), not in the bill.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 323.152(A) and 4503.065, not in the bill.

individual’s primary residence. Thus, each incentive should only apply to a single property owned by an individual.

The bill appropriates \$7.5 million from the GRF in each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027 for the implementation of the screening system.<sup>4</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-17-25

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ANHB0179-136/sb

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<sup>4</sup> Sections 3, 4, and 5.