

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 536

Representative Humphrey

To amend section 1901.026 of the Revised Code to	1
modify the manner current operating costs are	2
apportioned for a municipal court with respect	3
to caseloads for civil traffic tickets.	4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 1901.026 of the Revised Code be	5
amended to read as follows:	6

Sec. 1901.026. (A) The current operating costs of a	7
municipal court, other than a county-operated municipal court,	8
that has territorial jurisdiction under section 1901.02 or	9
1901.182 of the Revised Code that extends beyond the corporate	10
limits of the municipal corporation in which the court is	11
located shall be apportioned pursuant to this section among all	12
of the municipal corporations and townships that are within the	13
territory of the court. Each municipal corporation and each	14
township within the territory of the municipal court shall be	15
assigned a proportionate share of the current operating costs of	16
the municipal court that is equal to the percentage of the total	17
criminal and civil caseload of the municipal court that arose in	18
that municipal corporation or township. Each municipal	19
corporation and each township then shall be liable for its	20
assigned proportionate share of the current operating costs of	21

the court, subject to division (B) of this section. 22

For purposes of this section, the criminal and civil 23
caseload that arose in a municipal corporation or township is 24
the total number of criminal cases filed in the municipal court 25
during the preceding calendar year that arose out of offenses 26
that occurred in the municipal corporation or township, the 27
total number of civil actions filed in the municipal court 28
during the preceding calendar year concerning a violation of a 29
state traffic law or a municipal traffic ordinance that occurred 30
in the municipal corporation, and the total number of other 31
civil cases filed in the municipal court during the preceding 32
calendar year in which the address of the majority of the 33
defendants that are designated in the caption of the case and 34
that have addresses within municipal corporations or townships 35
within the territory of the court is within the municipal 36
corporation or township or, if there is no majority of such 37
defendants, in which the address of the first such defendant is 38
within the municipal corporation or township. 39

(B) A municipal corporation or township within the 40
territory of a municipal court is not required to pay that part 41
of its proportionate share of the current operating costs of the 42
court, as determined in accordance with division (A) of this 43
section, that exceeds the total amount of costs, fees, fines, 44
bail, or other moneys that was disbursed by the clerk of the 45
court under division (F) of section 1901.31 of the Revised Code, 46
to the municipal corporation or township during the period for 47
which its proportionate share of the current operating costs was 48
determined. The municipal corporation in which the court is 49
located is liable, in addition to its proportionate share, for 50
any part of the proportionate share of a municipal corporation 51
or township that the municipal corporation or township is not 52

required to pay under this division. 53

(C) The auditors or chief fiscal officers of each of the 54
municipal corporations and townships within the territory of a 55
municipal court for which the current operating costs are 56
apportioned under this section shall meet not less than once 57
each six months at the office of the auditor or chief fiscal 58
officer of the municipal corporation in which the court is 59
located to determine the proportionate share due from each 60
municipal corporation and each township, to determine whether 61
any municipal corporation or township is not required to pay any 62
part of its proportionate share under division (B) of this 63
section, and to adjust accounts. The meetings shall be held at 64
the direction of the auditor or chief fiscal officer of the 65
municipal corporation in which the court is located, and the 66
auditor or chief fiscal officer shall preside at the meetings. 67
The proportionate share of each of the municipal corporations 68
and townships, as reduced or increased in accordance with 69
division (B) of this section, is payable from the general fund 70
of the municipal corporation or township or from any other fund 71
designated or funds appropriated for the purpose of paying the 72
particular municipal corporation's or township's proportionate 73
share of the current operating costs of the court. 74

The court of common pleas of the county in which a 75
municipal court for which the current operating costs are 76
apportioned under this section is located has jurisdiction over 77
any civil action that is commenced to determine the current 78
operating costs of the court, the proportionate share of the 79
current operating costs to be paid by a particular municipal 80
corporation or township within the territory of the court, or 81
whether a municipal corporation or township is not required to 82
pay any part of its proportionate share under division (B) of 83

this section. 84

(D) For purposes of this section: 85

(1) "Operating costs" means the figure that is derived by 86
subtracting the total of all costs that are collected and paid 87
to the city treasury by the clerk of the municipal court 88
pursuant to division (F) of section 1901.31 of the Revised Code 89
and all interest received and paid to the city treasury in 90
relation to the costs pursuant to division (G) of section 91
1901.31 of the Revised Code from the total of the amounts 92
payable from the city treasury for the operation of the court 93
pursuant to sections 1901.10, 1901.11, 1901.111, 1901.12, 94
1901.31, 1901.311, 1901.312, 1901.32, 1901.33, 1901.331, 95
1901.36, 1901.37, and 1901.38 of the Revised Code, other than 96
any amounts payable from the city treasury for the operation of 97
the court involving construction, capital improvements, rent, or 98
the provision of heat and light. 99

(2) "Township" means a township that has adopted a limited 100
home rule government pursuant to Chapter 504. of the Revised 101
Code. 102

(3) "Criminal caseload" when used in regard to a township 103
means cases arising from a violation of a township resolution 104
for which a fine is imposed under Chapter 504. of the Revised 105
Code. 106

Section 2. That existing section 1901.026 of the Revised 107
Code is hereby repealed. 108