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H.B. 592
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. D. Thomas and A. Mathews

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SUMMARY

- Decreases the population threshold, from 25,000 to 5,000, related to the incorporation of unincorporated territory.
- Eliminates the requirement, for an area that is petitioning to incorporate as a municipal corporation, to obtain approval from all existing cities and villages within three miles.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Municipal incorporation

The Ohio Constitution classifies municipal corporations by population – 5,000+ as a city while all others are villages.¹ Currently, Ohio law sets forth two incorporation procedures – one that applies to areas with a population of 25,000 or more (which the law refers to as city incorporation) and another for smaller areas (which the law refers to as village incorporation). The bill makes two changes to these procedures.

First, the bill decreases the population threshold from 25,000 to 5,000, bringing it in line with the constitutional classification.² Second, the bill modifies the village procedure by eliminating the requirement to obtain approval from all existing municipal corporations within three miles. Currently, the village incorporation process can proceed only if: (1) the existing cities and villages within three miles give their approval, or (2) there had been a previous annexation

¹ Article XVIII, Section 1.

² R.C. 707.29.

attempt within the last two years that the city/village rejected.³ The bill eliminates this requirement.⁴

HISTORY

| Action | Date |
|------------|----------|
| Introduced | 11-18-25 |

ANHB0592IN-136/ar

³ This includes denial via inaction. Currently, when a municipal corporation does not respond about an annexation, it is treated as a rejection, and the annexation cannot proceed. R.C. 709.04, not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 707.04, repealed and 707.02.