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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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and Drafting

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Office

H.B. 609  
136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. D. Thomas and Craig

Christopher Glass, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Requires public bodies to allow for public commentary and testimony before taking formal action on any item.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Public commentary and testimony

The bill modifies the current Open Meetings Law to require that a public body, before taking formal action on any item, allow for public commentary and testimony. Under the bill, public bodies must adopt rules allowing for this public input. The bill grants public bodies discretion to establish, by rule, reasonable restrictions on the length and nature of the commentary and testimony. A public body may not require an individual to register or obtain prior approval to comment or testify, but may require an individual to provide the individual's name and contact information before being granted permission to speak.<sup>1</sup>

Under continuing law, a public body is defined as: "any board, commission, committee, council, or similar decision making body of a state agency, institution, or authority, and any legislative authority or board, commission, committee, council, agency, authority, or similar decision making body of any county, township, municipal corporation, school district, or other political subdivision or local public institution," any committee or subcommittee of any such body, and certain sanitary district courts.<sup>2</sup> Current Open Meetings Law requires a public body to

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 121.22(F)(3).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 121.22(B)(1)(a) through (c).

conduct official business in meetings open to the public. A public body also must provide notice of meeting times and locations. However, current law does not require time for public comment.<sup>3</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-25-25

ANHB0609IN-136/ts

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 121.22(C).