

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

H. R. No. 349

Representative Humphrey

A RESOLUTION

To make clear that state elected officials have a right 1
to tour, inspect, and assess any detention facilities 2
owned by the state at any time. 3

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, State lawmakers in New York, Florida, Nebraska, 4
and Washington have been denied access to state-owned detention 5
facilities contracted to house detainees for federal immigration 6
purposes when the lawmakers attempted to tour and assess the 7
conditions of the facilities and detainees; and 8

WHEREAS, It is the long held practice in Ohio to allow 9
state lawmakers to visit state detention facilities to oversee 10
operations and evaluate conditions; and 11

WHEREAS, State agencies, including the Department of 12
Rehabilitation and Correction and the Department of Youth 13
Services, are created and empowered by the legislature; and 14

WHEREAS, Legislative oversight over executive agencies is 15
central to the foundational principle of checks and balances 16
that the United States and Ohio were founded on, and through 17
monitoring and reviewing the actions of executive agencies, the 18
legislature ensures that these agencies operate within the law 19
and adhere to legislative intent; and 20

WHEREAS, Sections 103.13, 103.23, and 126.06 of the Revised 21
Code, Chapter 106. of the Revised Code, and Ohio Constitution, 22
Article II, Section 22, all demonstrate the legislature's role 23
as the final decision-maker for the operations of executive 24
agencies; and 25

WHEREAS, Permitting elected officials to visit state 26
detention facilities is necessary to allow the legislature to 27
fulfill its role as final decision-maker in the operation of 28
executive agencies; and 29

WHEREAS, Permitting elected officials to visit state 30
detention facilities promotes the values of transparency and 31
accountability for institutions that house politically 32
disenfranchised Ohioans; now therefore be it 33

RESOLVED, That state elected officials have a right, given 34
to them by the Ohio Constitution and the people of Ohio who 35
elect them, to tour, inspect, and assess any detention 36
facilities owned by the state, with any notice or no notice at 37
all; and be it further 38

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 39
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 40
news media of Ohio. 41