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S.B. 281
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Roegner

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SUMMARY

- Authorizes a board of county commissioners, on its own behalf, to award a franchise for the operation of a public transit system.
- Requires a board of county commissioners to notify the county transit board 30 days before holding a vote to award a franchise.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Public transit system franchise

The bill authorizes a board of county commissioners, on its own behalf, to award a franchise for the operation of a public transit system. Under current law, a board of county commissioners may only do so on behalf of a county transit board. The award of a franchise to an applicant is subject to such terms and conditions as the board of county commissioners considers appropriate and consistent with applicable laws.

Under continuing law, "franchise," means:

> The document and all accompanying rights approved by the board of county commissioners that provides the franchisee with the exclusive right to establish a public transit system and, subject to certification, the right to operate a public transit system. A franchise may include the right of a franchisee to provide transportation services for a county department of job and family services.[1]

[1] R.C. 306.04.

The bill requires a board of county commissioners to notify the county transit board, if one exists, at least 30 days before the board of county commissioners holds a vote to award a franchise to an applicant on its own behalf.[2]

The bill clarifies that the reporting required by current law, with respect to a franchise for the operation of a public transit system, is required whether the board of county commissioners awards the franchise on its own behalf or on behalf of a county transit board.[3]

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-07-25
Reported, S. Local Gov't	05-19-26
Passed Senate (30-0)	05-20-26

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[2] R.C. 306.04(D)(2).

[3] R.C. 306.14.