



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

INTERESTED PARTY TESTIMONY

HB 372

March 29, 2022

Chair Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write regarding our position on HB 372.

HB 372 would allow for expedited appeals to municipal boards of building appeals, as well as county boards of building appeals and the Ohio Board of Building Appeals. The bill would require that a local board of appeals must hold a hearing on an appeal of an order by a building official within 72 hours, rather than the 30 days allowed in current law. This extremely reduced timeframe could negatively impact the ability of municipal boards of building appeals to execute their duties effectively.

The League is supportive of proposed amendment AM2408, which would change the legislation's current requirement that a local board of appeals must hold a hearing on an appeal of an order by a building official within 72 hours. The amendment would instead require a municipal board of appeals to hold a hearing within five days after the request is made. The League is also supportive of the provision in the bill would allow expedited hearings to be held virtually.

Allowing local boards of appeals five days rather than three to hold a hearing will give local officials adequate time to do their jobs effectively, rather than mandating that they execute their duties within an extremely reduced timeframe. This amendment will enable local officials to effectively serve their communities within a shorter timeframe, as the original bill intended, as well as give them greater flexibility to execute these expedited hearings virtually.

Thank you for your consideration of our position and our support of this amendment.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League