



**STRONGER COUNTIES. STRONGER OHIO.**

209 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309

Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986

Toll Free: 888-757-1904 • [www.ccao.org](http://www.ccao.org)

Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

## HOUSE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

### Senate Bill 15 -- Proponent testimony

February 9, 2022

Jon Honeck  
Senior Policy Analyst

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express CCAO's support for Senate Bill 15, which establishes a fair and reasonable approach to personal financial liability for county treasurers, county auditors, and other local fiscal officers when a loss of funds occurs. County Commissioners work closely with the treasurer and auditor to safeguard taxpayer dollars, and we believe that all public officials should be held accountable when they do not fulfill their duties.

Senate Bill 15 provides that a fiscal officer will be liable when a loss of public funds arises from a negligent or wrongful act. This language puts fiscal officers on notice that their conduct will be scrutinized and that they will be held accountable for their own actions, but not for the misdeeds of others, or for circumstances that are beyond their control. In other words, they will be liable when they are at fault. We believe that this a clear standard that the public will support, and it will continue to promote personal responsibility on the part of fiscal officers.

We thank the sponsor, Senator Wilson, for bringing this legislation forward, and urge the committee to favorably report Senate Bill 15.



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ASSOCIATION OF OHIO  
SERVICE CORPORATION  
Fax: 614-221-6986  
[www.ccao.org](http://www.ccao.org)



County Employee Benefits  
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CEBCO  
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Fax: 614-229-4588  
[www.cebc.org](http://www.cebc.org)



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Fax: 614-220-0209  
[www.corsa.org](http://www.corsa.org)