



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE SMALL BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE

INTERESTED PARTY TESTIMONY

SB 196

April 6, 2022

Chair Rulli, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Small Business and Economic Development Opportunity Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write regarding our position on SB 196.

SB 196 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 AM2779-2, 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