



John Eklund
State Senator, 18th District

Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614.644.7718
Eklund@ohiosenate.gov

Committees:
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General Government

Senator John Eklund – Sponsor Testimony
Senate Bill 187
Senate Finance Committee
November 7, 2017

Good Afternoon Chairman Oelslager, Vice-Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 187, which will allow municipal corporations to charge delinquent taxpayers the costs of collecting municipal income taxes regardless of whether the costs are incurred before or after a judgment is entered against the taxpayer. These costs may also include attorney's contingency fees.

Current law allows municipalities to charge only post-judgment collection costs and attorney's fees.

SB 187 will encourage settlements without filing suit and obtaining judgment, saving time and money for all concerned. It will reduce budgetary constraints on cities while promoting fairness for those who pay timely and encouraging timely payment in future tax years. This bill will also provide guidance for courts which promotes consistent fee awards. Due process will still allow delinquent taxpayers to dispute and avoid fees.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 187, and I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.