



State Senator William P. Coley II
Senate Bill 103 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
June 27, 2017

Chairman Uecker, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, thank you the opportunity to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 103. If enacted, Senate Bill 103 would allow a board of county commissioners to contract with the county sheriff or a chief of a countywide fire department to implement a countywide emergency management program.

Senate Bill 103 clarifies that, in addition to the continuing option to form the countywide emergency management agency under existing code, counties will have the option to contract with either a chief of a fire department with countywide jurisdiction or the county sheriff. In giving our county commissioners the choice, we are restoring local control on emergency management procedure.

In the past, I have introduced a pilot version of this legislation. After requests from some groups and deliberation with local officials, I have decided that statewide application is appropriate to address gaps in interpretation of the current statute.

This is priority legislation for the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 103. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.