



County Auditors' Association of Ohio

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JULIE A. ADKINS
Seneca County
President

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

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Union County
Vice President

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

MICHAEL L. SMITH
Licking County
Second Vice President

HOUSE BILL 273

County Auditors' Association of Ohio

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Rogers,
and members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

J. CRAIG SNODGRASS
Lorain County
Third Vice President

DEBRA J. NYE
Muskingum County
Secretary/Treasurer

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 273. This bill is not only going to modernize the office of the County Auditor and Treasurer, but also potentially generate enough savings to allocate money to other areas and needs of county governments.

THOMAS P. PAPPAS, Esq.
Executive Director
Legislative Counsel

As you all are aware taxpayers are provided individual notices, several times, that they owe taxes to their County Treasurer. They receive tax bills, individualized letters and finally, under current law, their name is placed in the newspaper twice. House Bill 273 seeks to amend the final piece of this and only place their name in the newspaper once.

BETTY S. DEVER
Assistant Executive Director

The impact of House Bill 273 can be surprisingly large in many of our Counties. Hamilton County could save \$32,850 dollars annually from this simple piece of legislation. Cuyahoga County accounted for 28% of all statewide delinquent property taxes in 2016. In Cuyahoga County alone, the savings could be upwards of \$60,000 dollars a year if House Bill 273 is enacted. Statewide we anticipate hundreds of thousands of dollars of savings to Counties bottom line. During recessions, when delinquencies increase, this number will likely cross over a million dollars a year.

In addition to the savings in this bill, online publications might be more effective than paid advertisements in a local newspaper. In many Counties outside the urban cores, there is not one general newspaper in circulation that serves the entire population. This makes an online publication a more accessible option for many areas of Ohio.

To clarify, this legislation does not require a county to publish their delinquent tax lists online, but only offers this as a choice for the second publication if it makes sense for their county.

Ohioans know that they owe their taxes, they know the consequences of not paying their taxes and for many different reasons they are unable to pay them. House Bill 273 seeks to alter an antiquated practice and in doing so, save the taxpayers of this State hundreds of thousands of dollars that can go to other needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 273.