

Washington Township Trustees

Mercer County, Ohio

Brian Diller, Trustee
Dale Boeckman, Trustee
Pat Sudhoff, Trustee

Ellen Homan, Fiscal Officer
402 Pine Rd.
Ft. Recovery OH 45846

December 7, 2020

Dear Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Ellen Homan and I am the Fiscal Officer for Washington Township in Mercer County, Ohio. On behalf of the Ohio Township Association, I wish to express my support for HB 444.

One particular item of this bill comes into play for many small townships in Ohio is regarding the transfer of cemeteries. This actually happened in my small township in western Ohio approximately six years ago. A small church decided that they no longer wanted to maintain their church cemetery in our township. As a result, our township received a check for \$76.00 from the church to continue the maintenance of the cemetery. The cost of maintaining the cemetery every year costs approximately \$3,000.00. However, the only income the township receives is approximately \$400 every **three** years in the form of cemetery plots sold. As a result, this has added to the burden of already financially stricken townships.

Please consider some minimum standards regarding the transfer of cemeteries to townships.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion on HB 444.

Sincerely,

Ellen Homan
Fiscal Officer, Washington Township, Mercer County, Ohio
Ohio Township Association Board of Director