

93<sup>rd</sup> House District

Vinton County

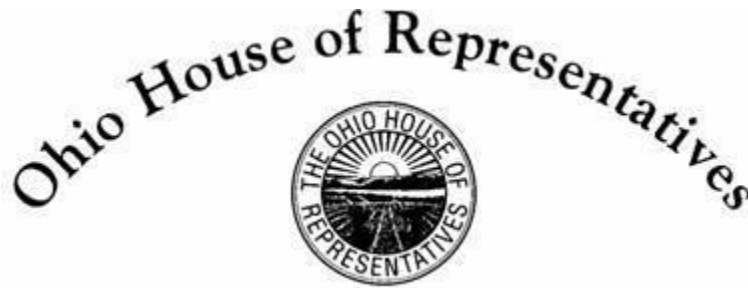
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Committees

Energy and Natural Resources  
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Finance Committee  
Finance Subcommittee on  
Transportation  
Insurance Committee  
Public Utilities

**Jason Stephens**  
State Representative

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 101, the county jail funding formula.

HB 101 creates a two-tiered ranking system to determine need in counties based on a financial ranking of all the counties done by the Department of Taxation. Then, the lowest among the ranking counties, OFCC will invite a certain amount of counties to apply, based on the estimated amount of available funds. From there, OFCC will conduct an on-site assessment which will be the basis of the final decision based on the overall condition of the jail. Allows for OFCC to waive the on-site assessment requirement if the county has already conducted an on-site assessment that OFCC determines satisfactory. The county auditor will be required to report to OFCC the estimated annual, monthly or daily cost of operational costs. This bill specifies that the funding formula rank counties according to their property tax values and an estimate of the gross amount of taxable retail sales sourced to the county by fiscal year.

OFCC and DRC will work in conjunction to develop a set of standards to evaluate the condition of existing facilities. OCFE and DRC must solicit input from sheriffs and boards of county commissioners. This also requires the project to conform to the minimum standards before a certificate of completion may be issued. Bidding notices and project specifications must be on file with DRC and OFCC. Additionally, this version requires that any locally donated contributions be deposited into the county's project construction fund before releasing state money, and that projects be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. Counties may use any otherwise lawful alternative construction delivery method for the construction of the project.

We worked together with OFCC, DRC, Department of Tax BSSA, CCAO to ensure we had a bill that we were all happy to see pass and implemented. This bill is good and important bill for all of Ohio and in time will lead to safe and efficient jail conditions in every county in Ohio.

Thank you for allowing us to provide testimony, we are happy to take any questions at this time.