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Committees:
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Agriculture & Natural Resources
Primary & Secondary Education
Transportation

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Sponsor Testimony – Senate Bill 332
Senate Local Government and Elections Committee
Senator Sandra O'Brien
May 18, 2022

Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to deliver sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 332.

SB 332 will allow for land conveyances from state agencies, commissions, and universities on a case-by-case basis. As a general rule, state agencies do not own the real estate under their jurisdiction; the real estate is owned by the state. Most agencies therefore do not have the authority to convey the real estate. A land conveyance bill introduced in the Ohio General Assembly proposes uncodified law to authorize a state official to convey state-owned real estate specified in the bill. A land conveyance bill resembles a contract to purchase real estate in that it specifies the terms of a subsequent conveyance.

This bill includes 34 land conveyances from a variety of entities. I have provided to the committee a separate document with a list of the state agencies, commissions, and universities pursuing a land conveyance should committee members wish to see them. I will be offering a technical amendment in the near future to update one of the conveyances in the bill regarding the Department of Jobs and Family Services. As written, the bill allows for the public auction of a building currently managed by JFS. There has been interest from a local buyer to purchase the building directly, however, and the amendment allows for that direct sale.

Due to the recent passage of SB 135, certain land conveyances involving Ohio's public universities will soon be done through the Controlling Board instead of a land conveyance bill. However, we are including these conveyances in this bill to make sure they are completed in a timely manner before SB 135 is fully enacted on July 21 of this year.

Thank you again, Chair Gavarone, for allowing me to give sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 332. I am happy to answer any questions from the Committee.