

Committees  
Primary & Secondary Education (Chair)  
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From the desk of:

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Chairman John, Vice-Chair Dean, Ranking member Brennan and members of the State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony for HB 101.

In November 2019, the village of Amelia in Clermont County voted to dissolve. Due to the ambiguity in Ohio Revised Code on how to dissolve a village, this led to a 2 to 3 year legal fight that involved the county court, the auditor of state, 2 different townships, the outgoing village leadership, the incoming village leadership, and county wide offices. Some of the issues around winding down the affairs of this village still remain.

It became clear to my joint sponsor and me that Ohio Revised Code needed to change and to bring clarity to how to dissolve a village. We worked on this bill last General Assembly but were not able to untwist all of the issues satisfactorily so that we could bring a bill forward. We did not give up and finally have a bill that we feel good about.

HB 101 does the following to accomplish the task of how to dissolve a village:

1. Clarifies that village officials cease to hold office upon certification of the vote
2. Clarifies that all ordinances and resolutions cease except for necessary tax levies
3. Establishes a Transition Supervisory Board which is a public body and is comprised of:
  - a. County Auditor
  - b. County Recorder
  - c. County Prosecutor
4. This Board shall:
  - a) Appoint a Receiver-Trustee from a list of individuals provided by the AOS.
  - b) Resolve all debts and liabilities of the former village
  - c) Approve any necessary operations for the residents of the former village
  - d) Resolve legal claims
  - e) Administer any necessary taxes to pay the liabilities of the former village
  - f) Wind down the involvement of the former village in any community improvement corporation, special improvement districts, or tax increment financing arrangement
  - g) Dispose of real or personal property
  - h) Manage utility services until transferred
  - i) Shall turn to the former villages fiscal officer and legal council for consultation
5. This Board shall cease to exist upon final audit approval by the Auditor of State.

I would like to work with committee members and the Chair to consider amendments including the issue of limiting how often petitioners can attempt to dissolve a village.

I now turn to my Joint sponsor for comments.