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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 211  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Gross

Abby McMahon, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Requires a public body, which is subject to Ohio's Open Meetings Law, to establish rules to permit members of the public to comment or testify about matters of public concern before the public body at its public meeting.
- Permits a public body to establish reasonable restrictions regarding time limits on the comment or testimony.
- Names the bill the Free to Speak Act.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Public comment in public meetings

The bill requires a public body to establish rules to permit members of the public to comment or testify about matters of public concern before the public body at its public meeting. Additionally, the public body may establish reasonable restrictions regarding time limits on the comment or testimony. Under continuing law, Ohio's Open Meetings Law requires all public bodies to take official action and to conduct all deliberations on official business only in open meetings available to the public, unless otherwise exempted by law.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 121.22.

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	06-13-23

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