

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2017-2018**

**H. B. No. 653**

**Representative Howse**

**Cosponsor: Representative Ashford**

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**A BILL**

To enact sections 126.60, 126.61, 357.01, 357.02, 1  
357.03, and 357.04 of the Revised Code to 2  
authorize counties to engage in participatory 3  
budgeting. 4

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 126.60, 126.61, 357.01, 357.02, 5  
357.03, and 357.04 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 6  
follows: 7

**Sec. 126.60.** (A) The participatory budgeting fund is 8  
created in the state treasury for the purpose of carrying out 9  
sections 357.01 to 357.04 of the Revised Code. The fund shall 10  
consist of transfers made to the fund from the general revenue 11  
fund. All investment earnings shall be credited to the fund. 12

(B) Payments made from the fund shall be made to each 13  
county treasurer for deposit into the county general fund. The 14  
office of budget and management shall determine a county's 15  
annual allocation in accordance with division (A) of section 16  
126.61 of the Revised Code. 17

**Sec. 126.61.** (A) (1) Each Ohio house of representatives 18

district shall be allocated one million dollars per fiscal year 19  
from the participatory budgeting fund created in section 126.60 20  
of the Revised Code. 21

(2) If an Ohio house of representatives district has 22  
territory in more than one county, the allocation shall be 23  
divided proportionally in accordance with each county's 24  
population, as determined by the most recent federal decennial 25  
census. 26

(B) On approval of a proposal by a majority of the 27  
electors of a county under section 357.03 of the Revised Code, 28  
the director of budget and management shall transfer to the 29  
county general fund the amount prescribed in the proposal from 30  
the participatory budgeting fund. Such a transfer shall be made 31  
not later than the last day of the month in which the proposal 32  
is approved. 33

(C) The cumulative amount of transfers made to a county 34  
general fund in a fiscal year shall not exceed the county's 35  
allocation, as determined in accordance with division (A) of 36  
this section. 37

(D) Not later than the thirtieth day of June of each year, 38  
the director of budget and management shall calculate the amount 39  
of money that was transferred to counties during the past twelve 40  
months under division (B) of this section and transfer that 41  
amount from the general revenue fund to the participatory 42  
budgeting fund. 43

**Sec. 357.01.** A board of county commissioners may, by 44  
resolution, establish a county participatory budgeting 45  
commission to oversee a participatory budgeting process 46  
described under sections 357.02 to 357.04 of the Revised Code. 47

The resolution shall include at least the following: 48

(A) The process for appointing members of the public to the commission; 49  
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(B) The total number of members to be appointed to the commission, which shall be at least four; 51  
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(C) A requirement that the commission be composed of not less than one county commissioner of the county and not less than three members of the public, who shall be residents of the county. 53  
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**Sec. 357.02.** (A) A county participatory budgeting commission established under section 357.01 of the Revised Code shall be responsible for all of the following: 57  
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(1) Overseeing the county's participatory budgeting process under sections 357.01 to 357.04 of the Revised Code; 60  
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(2) Establishing a process by which members of the public may submit proposals for the commission to consider related to the construction, acquisition, or improvement of public works, public buildings, or other improvements benefiting the county; 62  
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(3) Holding public hearings as necessary to consider proposals submitted by members of the public for the expenditure of funds to be transferred to the county general fund from the participatory budgeting fund established under section 126.60 of the Revised Code; 66  
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(4) Selecting proposals for the expenditure of funds to be transferred to the county general fund from the participatory budgeting fund established under section 126.60 of the Revised Code for submission to the electors. 71  
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(B) The commission shall not select a proposal for 75

submission to the electors until the commission has held at 76  
least one public hearing on the proposal. 77

(C) The commission shall not select a proposal, or a group 78  
of proposals, that would, individually or cumulatively, as 79  
applicable, exceed the amount allocated to the county in 80  
accordance with division (A) of section 126.61 of the Revised 81  
Code. 82

**Sec. 357.03.** (A) When the county participatory budgeting 83  
commission selects a proposal under section 357.02 of the 84  
Revised Code, the board of county commissioners shall adopt a 85  
resolution directing the board of elections to submit the 86  
proposal to the electors at a general election occurring at 87  
least one hundred fifty days after the resolution is adopted. 88

(B) If the proposal is approved by a majority of the 89  
electors voting on it, the board of county commissioners 90  
promptly shall do both of the following: 91

(1) Certify the results of the election to the office of 92  
budget and management; 93

(2) Adopt a resolution ordering that the funds be expended 94  
as provided in the proposal. 95

**Sec. 357.04.** A board of county commissioners that has 96  
established a county participatory budgeting commission may 97  
adopt resolutions as needed to facilitate a participatory 98  
budgeting process. 99