# As Reported by the Senate Community Revitalization Committee

# 135th General Assembly

**Regular Session** 

Sub. H. B. No. 50

2023-2024

### Representatives Humphrey, Seitz

Cosponsors: Representatives Brent, Isaacsohn, Williams, Forhan, Stewart, Blackshear, Russo, Miller, A., White, Jarrells, Abrams, Galonski, Hillyer, Schmidt, Abdullahi, Baker, Brennan, Brewer, Carruthers, Cross, Cutrona, Dell'Aquila, Demetriou, Dobos, Ghanbari, Grim, Holmes, Lightbody, Liston, Mathews, Miller, J., Miranda, Pizzulli, Robb Blasdel, Rogers, Skindell, Somani, Swearingen, Sweeney, Thomas, C., Weinstein, Willis, Young, B., Young, T.

# A BILL

Го	amend sections 120.54, 4722.01, 5709.56, and	1
	5715.27 and to enact sections 2953.26 and	2
	2961.25 of the Revised Code to create a	3
	mechanism by which an individual who is subject	4
	to a collateral sanction for housing may obtain	5
	a certificate of qualification for housing that	6
	may provide relief from certain bars on housing,	7
	to extend the Home Construction Service	8
	Suppliers Act to repairs, improvements,	9
	remodels, or renovations of existing structures,	10
	and to modify the application procedure for the	11
	residential development property tax exemption.	12

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

Section 1. That sections 120.54, 4722.01, 5709.56, and	13
5715.27 be amended and sections 2953.26 and 2961.25 of the	14
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	15

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certificate of qualification for housing from an individual	103
shall attempt to determine all other courts in this state in	104
which the individual was convicted of or pleaded guilty to an	105
offense other than the offense from which the individual is	106
seeking relief. The court shall notify all other courts in this	107
state that it determines under this division were courts in	108
which the individual was convicted of or pleaded guilty to an	109
offense other than the offense from which the individual is	110
seeking relief that the individual has filed the petition and	111
that the court may send comments regarding the possible issuance	112
of the certificate, and shall notify the county's prosecuting	113
attorney that the individual has filed the petition.	114
A court of common pleas that receives a petition for a	115
certificate of qualification for housing may direct the clerk of	116
court to process and record all notices required in or under	117
this section. Except as provided in division (B)(5) of this	118
section, the court shall pay thirty dollars of the application	119
fee into the state treasury and twenty dollars of the	120
application fee into the county general revenue fund.	121
(5) Upon receiving a petition for a certificate of	122
qualification for housing, a court of common pleas may waive all	123
or part of the fifty-dollar-filing fee for an applicant who is	124
indigent. If an application fee is partially waived, the first	125
twenty dollars of the fee that is collected shall be paid into	126
the county general revenue fund. Any partial fee collected in	127
excess of twenty dollars shall be paid into the state treasury.	128
(C) (1) Upon receiving a petition for a certificate of	129
qualification for housing, the court shall review the	130
individual's petition, the individual's criminal history, except	131
for information contained in any record that has been scaled	133

under section 2953.32 of the Revised Code, all filings submitted	133
by the prosecutor or by the victim in accordance with rules	134
adopted by the division of parole and community services, the	135
applicant's military service record, if applicable, and whether	136
the applicant has an emotional, mental, or physical condition	137
that is traceable to the applicant's military service in the	138
armed forces of the United States and that was a contributing	139
factor in the commission of the offense or offenses, and all	140
other relevant evidence. The court may order any report,	141
investigation, or disclosure by the individual that the court	142
believes is necessary for the court to reach a decision on	143
whether to approve the individual's petition for a certificate	144
of qualification for housing, except that the court shall not	145
require an individual to disclose information about any record	146
sealed under section 2953.32 of the Revised Code.	147
(2) Upon receiving a petition for a certificate of	148
qualification for housing, except as otherwise provided in this	149
division, the court shall decide whether to issue the	150
certificate within sixty days after the court receives the	151
completed petition and all information requested for the court	152
to make that decision. Upon request of the individual who filed	153
the petition, the court may extend the sixty-day period	154
specified in this division.	155
(3) Except as provided in division (C)(5) of this section	156
and subject to division (D)(3) of this section, a court that	157
receives an individual's petition for a certificate of	158
qualification for housing may issue a certificate of	159
qualification for housing, at the court's discretion, if the	160
court finds that the individual has established all of the	161
following by a preponderance of the evidence:	162

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release of the individual from any period of incarceration in a	192
local correctional facility that was imposed for that offense	193
and all periods of supervision imposed after release from the	194
period of incarceration or, if the individual was not	195
incarcerated for that offense, at least one year has elapsed	196
since the date of the final release of the individual from all	197
sanctions imposed for that offense including any period of	198
supervision.	199
(6) An application that meets all of the requirements for	200
the presumption under division (C)(5) of this section shall be	201
denied only if the court that receives the petition finds that	202
the evidence reviewed under division (C)(1) of this section	203
rebuts the presumption of eligibility for issuance by	204
establishing, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the	205
applicant has not been rehabilitated.	206
(7) If a court that receives an individual's petition for	207
a certificate of qualification for housing denies the petition,	208
the court shall provide written notice to the individual of the	209
court's denial. The court may place conditions on the individual	210
regarding the individual's filing of any subsequent petition for	211
a certificate of qualification for housing. The written notice	212
must notify the individual of any conditions placed on the	213
individual's filing of a subsequent petition for a certificate	214
of qualification for housing.	215
If a court of common pleas that receives an individual's	216
petition for a certificate of qualification for housing denies	217
the petition, the individual may appeal the decision to the	218
court of appeals only if the individual alleges that the denial	219
was an abuse of discretion on the part of the court of common	220
pleas.	221

(D) (1) A certificate of qualification for housing issued	222
to an individual under this section or section 2961.25 of the	223
Revised Code lifts the automatic bar of a collateral sanction	224
for housing and a decision-maker shall consider on a case-by-	225
case basis whether to provide or deny housing, notwithstanding	226
the individual's possession of the certificate, without,	227
however, reconsidering or rejecting any finding made by a court	228
under division (C)(3) of this section.	229
(2) The certificate constitutes a rebuttable presumption	230
that the person's criminal convictions are insufficient evidence	231
that the person is unfit for the housing in question.	232
Notwithstanding the presumption established under this division,	233
the decision-maker may deny the housing to the person if it	234
determines that the person is unfit for the housing.	235
(3) A certificate of qualification for housing issued to	236
an individual under this section or section 2961.25 of the	237
Revised Code does not create relief from requirements imposed by	238
Chapter 2950. of the Revised Code and rules adopted under	239
sections 2950.13 and 2950.132 of the Revised Code.	240
(E) A petition for a certificate of qualification for	241
housing filed by an individual under division (B)(1) of this	242
section shall include all of the following:	243
(1) The individual's name, date of birth, and social	244
security number;	245
(2) All aliases of the individual and all social security	246
numbers associated with those aliases;	247
(3) The individual's current residential address,	248
including the length of time that the individual has resided in	249
the current residence, expressed in years and months, and the	250

city, county, state, and zip code of the residence;	251
(4) A history of the individual's residential address or	252
addresses for the past ten years, including the length of time	253
that the individual has resided at the address, expressed in	254
years and months of residence, and the city, county, state, and	255
zip code of residence;	256
(5) A general statement as to why the individual has filed	257
the petition and how the certificate of qualification for	258
housing would assist the individual;	259
(6) A summary of the individual's criminal history, except	260
for information contained in any record that has been sealed	261
under section 2953.32 of the Revised Code, with respect to each	262
offense that is a disqualification from housing, including the	263
years of each conviction or plea of guilty for each of those	264
offenses;	265
(7) A summary of the individual's employment history,	266
specifying the name of, and dates of employment with, each	267
<pre>employer;</pre>	268
(8) Verifiable references and endorsements;	269
(9) The name of one or more immediate family members of	270
the individual, or other persons with whom the individual has a	271
close relationship, who support the individual's reentry plan;	272
(10) A summary of the reason the individual believes the	273
certificate of qualification for housing should be granted;	274
(11) Any other information required by rule by the	275
department of rehabilitation and correction.	276
(F)(1) In a tort action, a certificate of qualification	277
for housing issued to an individual under this section or	278

section 2961.25 of the Revised Code may be introduced as	279
evidence of a decision-maker's due care in leasing to the	280
individual to whom the certificate of qualification for housing	281
was issued if the decision-maker knew of the certificate at the	282
time of the alleged negligence or other fault.	283
(2) In a tort action against a decision-maker for	284
negligent leasing, a certificate of qualification for housing	285
issued to an individual under this section or section 2961.25 of	286
the Revised Code provides immunity for the decision-maker as to	287
the claim if the decision-maker knew of the certificate at the	288
time of the alleged negligence.	289
(3) If a decision-maker leases to an individual who has	290
been issued a certificate of qualification for housing under	291
this section or section 2961.25 of the Revised Code, if the	292
individual, after being leased to, subsequently demonstrates	293
dangerousness or is convicted of or pleads guilty to a felony or	294
a misdemeanor offense of violence, and if the decision-maker	295
retains the individual as a lessee after the demonstration of	296
dangerousness or the conviction or guilty plea, the decision-	297
maker may be held liable in a tort action that is based on or	298
relates to the retention of the individual as a lessee only if	299
it is proved by a preponderance of the evidence that both of the	300
<pre>following apply:</pre>	301
(a) The decision-maker had actual knowledge that the	302
lessee was dangerous or had been convicted of or pleaded guilty	303
to the felony or the misdemeanor offense of violence.	304
(b) The decision-maker was willful in retaining the	305
individual as a lessee after the demonstration of dangerousness	306
or the conviction or guilty plea of which the decision-maker has	307
actual knowledge.	308

(G) A certificate of qualification for housing issued	309
under this section or section 2961.25 of the Revised Code shall	310
be revoked if the individual to whom the certificate of	311
qualification for housing was issued is convicted of or pleads	312
guilty to a felony or a misdemeanor offense of violence	313
committed subsequent to the issuance of the certificate of	314
qualification for housing.	315
(H) A court's issuance, or failure to issue, under this	316
section, or the department of rehabilitation and correction's or	317
adult parole authority's issuance, or failure to issue, under	318
section 2961.25 of the Revised Code, a certificate of	319
qualification for housing to an individual does not give rise to	320
a claim for damages against the department of rehabilitation and	321
correction or court.	322
(I) The division of parole and community services shall	323
adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code	324
for the implementation and administration of this section and	325
shall prescribe the form for the petition to be used under	326
division (B)(1) of this section. The form for the petition shall	327
include places for all of the information specified in division	328
(E) of this section.	329
(J) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create	330
or provide a private right of action.	331
Sec. 2961.25. (A) If the department of rehabilitation and	332
correction or the adult parole authority issues a certificate of	333
achievement and employability to a prisoner under division (C)	334
(2) of section 2961.22 of the Revised Code, the department or	335
authority shall also issue a certificate of qualification for	336
housing to the prisoner if the prisoner has satisfactorily	337
completed a tenant education, training, and readiness program	338

contract, for an amount exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars.

(D) "Home construction service supplier" or "supplier"

means a person who contracts with an owner to provide home

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has not yet commenced. The construction of streets, sidewalks,	396
curbs, or driveways or the installation of water, sewer, or	397
other utility lines on a subdivided parcel does not cause	398
construction of a residential building to commence for purposes	399
of division (A)(1) or (B) of this section. "Pre-residential	400
development property" does not include a parcel, any portion of	401
the value of which is exempted from taxation under section	402
5709.40, 5709.41, 5709.73, or 5709.78 of the Revised Code.	403

- (2) "Residential building" means a building or structure 404 any part of which is to be used as a dwelling. 405
- (3) "Unexempted value" means, for any subdivided parcel, 406 one of the following:
- (a) Except as provided in division (A)(3)(b) of this

  section, the purchase price of the original property multiplied

  409

  by a fraction, the numerator of which is the true value in money

  of the subdivided parcel for the tax year the subdivided parcel

  first appears on the tax list and the denominator of which is

  the true value in money of all subdivided parcels subdivided

  from that original parcel for that tax year.

  418
- (b) If a subdivided parcel exempted under this section is 415 itself subdivided, the "unexempted value" of the newly 416 subdivided parcel equals the unexempted value, as defined in 417 division (A)(3)(a) of this section, of the parcel from which the 418 newly subdivided parcel was subdivided for the tax year 419 preceding the tax year the newly subdivided parcel first appears 420 on the tax list multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which 421 is the true value in money of the newly subdivided parcel for 422 the tax year it first appears on the tax list and the 423 denominator of which is the true value in money for that year of 424 all newly subdivided parcels resulting from the most recent 425

subdivision.	426
(4) "Subdivided parcel" means a parcel resulting from the	427
subdivision of original property pursuant to a plat subdividing	428
that property presented to the county auditor under section	429
5713.18 of the Revised Code.	430
(5) "Original property" means the parcel from which a	431
subdivided parcel is subdivided.	432
(6) "Qualifying owner" means the owner of pre-residential	433
development property for any portion of a tax year ending on or	434
after the effective date of this section October 3, 2023, that	435
includes the date a plat subdividing land including such	436
property is presented to the county auditor under section	437
5713.18 of the Revised Code, or any other person to which title	438
to the property is transferred, without consideration, by	439
another qualifying owner.	440
(7) "Purchase price" means the price at which the property	441
was most recently sold in an arm's length transaction, as	442
described in section 5713.03 of the Revised Code.	443
(B) Any Subject to section 5715.27 of the Revised Code,	444
any increase in taxable value above the unexempted value of pre-	445
residential development property owned by a qualifying owner is	446
exempted from taxation beginning with the first tax year the	447
pre-residential development property appears on the tax list	448
after a plat subdividing land including that property is	449
presented to the county auditor under section 5713.18 of the	450
Revised Code and for each of the seven ensuing tax years, except	451
that the exemption shall not apply beginning with the tax year	452
that begins after the tax year in which the earliest of the	453
following occurs:	454

(1) Construction of a residential building on that	455
property commences;	456
(2) Title to the property is transferred for consideration	457
by a qualifying owner to another person;	458
(3) Any portion of the value of that property is exempted	459
from taxation under section 5709.40, 5709.41, 5709.73, or	460
5709.78 of the Revised Code.	461
(C) The tax commissioner A county auditor shall not	462
approve an application for an exemption authorized under this	463
section unless the applicant for the exemption qualifying owner	464
certifies that the parcel that is the subject of the exemption	465
satisfies the requirements of division (A)(1) of this section	466
for pre-residential development property.	467
(D)(1) If a parcel subject to the partial exemption	468
authorized by this section is valued at its current value for	469
agricultural use under section 5713.31 of the Revised Code, the	470
county auditor shall regularly inspect the parcel to determine	471
whether a conversion of land devoted exclusively to agricultural	472
use, as defined in section 5713.30 of the Revised Code, has	473
occurred. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit	474
the authority of a county auditor to levy any recoupment charge	475
pursuant to sections 5713.34 and 5713.35 of the Revised Code.	476
(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow a	477
parcel that is not land devoted exclusively to agricultural use,	478
as defined in section 5713.30 of the Revised Code, to be valued	479
at its current value for agricultural use under section 5713.31	480
of the Revised Code.	481
(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to	482
authorize a parcel subject to the partial exemption authorized	483

(B) (B) (1) The board of education of any school district

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may request the tax commissioner or county auditor to provide it 513 with notification of applications for exemption from taxation 514 for property located within that district. If so requested, and 515 except as provided in division (B)(2) of this section, the 516 commissioner or auditor shall send to the board on a monthly 517 basis reports that contain sufficient information to enable the 518 519 board to identify each property that is the subject of an exemption application, including, but not limited to, the name 520 of the property owner or applicant, the address of the property, 521 and the auditor's parcel number. The commissioner or auditor 522 shall mail the reports by the fifteenth day of the month 523 following the end of the month in which the commissioner or 524 auditor receives the applications for exemption. 525

(2) A county auditor shall not provide a board of

education with notification of an application for exemption from

taxation for pre-residential development property filed pursuant

to section 5709.56 of the Revised Code.

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(C) A board of education that has requested notification 530 under division  $\frac{(B)-(B)}{(1)}$  of this section may, with respect to 531 any application for exemption of property located in the 532 district and included in the commissioner's or auditor's most 533 recent report provided under that division, file a statement 534 with the commissioner or auditor and with the applicant 535 indicating its intent to submit evidence and participate in any 536 hearing on the application. The statements shall be filed prior 537 to the first day of the third month following the end of the 538 month in which that application was docketed by the commissioner 539 or auditor. A statement filed in compliance with this division 540 entitles the district to submit evidence and to participate in 541 any hearing on the property and makes the district a party for 542 purposes of sections 5717.02 to 5717.04 of the Revised Code in 543 any appeal of the commissioner's or auditor's decision to the 544 board of tax appeals. 545

- (D) The commissioner or auditor shall not hold a hearing 546 on or grant or deny an application for exemption of property in 547 a school district whose board of education has requested 548 notification under division  $\frac{(B)-(B)}{(B)}$  of this section until the 549 end of the period within which the board may submit a statement 550 with respect to that application under division (C) of this 551 section. The commissioner or auditor may act upon an application 552 at any time prior to that date upon receipt of a written waiver 553 from each such board of education, or, in the case of exemptions 554 authorized by section 725.02, 1728.10, 5709.40, 5709.41, 555 5709.411, 5709.45, 5709.62, 5709.63, 5709.632, 5709.73, 5709.78, 556 5709.84, or 5709.88 of the Revised Code, upon the request of the 557 property owner. An auditor may act at any time on an application 558 about which the board of education is not authorized to receive 559 notice under division (B)(2) of this section. Failure of a board 560 of education to receive the report required in division (B)—(B) 561 (1) of this section shall not void an action of the commissioner 562 or auditor with respect to any application. The commissioner or 563 auditor may extend the time for filing a statement under 564 division (C) of this section. 565
- (E) A complaint may also be filed with the commissioner or 566 auditor by any person, board, or officer authorized by section 567 5715.19 of the Revised Code to file complaints with the county 568 board of revision against the continued exemption of any 569 property granted exemption by the commissioner or auditor under 570 this section other than pre-residential development property 571 that is exempted from taxation pursuant to section 5709.56 of 572 573 the Revised Code.

- (F) An application for exemption and a complaint against 574 exemption shall be filed prior to the thirty-first day of 575 December of the tax year for which exemption is requested or for 576 which the liability of the property to taxation in that year is 577 requested. The commissioner or auditor shall consider such 578 application or complaint in accordance with procedures 579 established by the commissioner, determine whether the property 580 is subject to taxation or exempt therefrom, and, if the 581 commissioner makes the determination, certify the determination 582 to the auditor. Upon making the determination or receiving the 583 commissioner's determination, the auditor shall correct the tax 584 list and duplicate accordingly. If a tax certificate has been 585 sold under section 5721.32 or 5721.33 of the Revised Code with 586 respect to property for which an exemption has been requested, 587 the tax commissioner or auditor shall also certify the findings 588 to the county treasurer of the county in which the property is 589 located. 590
- (G) Applications and complaints, and documents of any kind 591 related to applications and complaints, filed with the tax 592 commissioner or county auditor under this section are public 593 records within the meaning of section 149.43 of the Revised 594 Code. 595
- (H) If the commissioner or auditor determines that the use 596 of property or other facts relevant to the taxability of 597 property that is the subject of an application for exemption or 598 a complaint under this section has changed while the application 599 or complaint was pending, the commissioner or auditor may make 600 the determination under division (F) of this section separately 601 for each tax year beginning with the year in which the 602 application or complaint was filed or the year for which 603 remission of taxes under division (C) of section 5713.08 of the 604

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To reported by the conditional community revitalization commuted	
Revised Code was requested, and including each subsequent tax	605
year during which the application or complaint is pending before	606
the commissioner or auditor.	607
<b>Gratism 0</b> What anisting partiage 100 E4 4702 01	600
Section 2. That existing sections 120.54, 4722.01,	608
5709.56, and 5715.27 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	609
Section 3. The amendment by this act of sections 5709.56	610
-	010
and 5715.27 of the Revised Code applies to applications filed	611
under section 5715.27 of the Revised Code for tax years	612
beginning on or after the effective date of this section.	613