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209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309  
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986  
Toll Free: 888-757-1904 • [www.ccao.org](http://www.ccao.org)

Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

## **SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

### **Senate Bill 15 -- Proponent testimony**

March 9, 2021

Jon Honeck  
Senior Policy Analyst

Chair Gavarone, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 15, which establishes a fair and reasonable approach to personal financial liability for county treasurers, county auditors, and other local fiscal officers when a loss of funds occurs. County Commissioners work closely with the treasurer and auditor to safeguard taxpayer dollars, and we believe that all public officials should be held accountable when they do not fulfill their duties.

Senate Bill 15 provides that a fiscal officer will be liable when a loss of public funds arises from a negligent or wrongful act. This language puts fiscal officers on notice that their conduct will be scrutinized and that they will be held accountable for their own actions, but not for the misdeeds of others, or for circumstances that are beyond their control. In other words, they will be liable when they are at fault. We believe that this a clear standard that the public will support, and it will continue to promote personal responsibility on the part of fiscal officers.

We thank the sponsor, Senator Wilson, for bringing this legislation forward, and urge the committee to favorably report Senate Bill 15.



Fax: 614-220-0209  
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[www.cebco.org](http://www.cebco.org)



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