



---

# STATEHOUSE REPORT

Published by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio

209 East State Street · Columbus OH 43215-4309 · Phone: 614-221-5627 · Fax: 614-221-6986 · [www.ccao.org](http://www.ccao.org)

---

May 22, 2026

## Local Government Expenditure Database, SNAP EBT chip-card bills receive floor votes

On Wednesday, four bills of note to counties received floor votes in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

### House of Representatives

[House Bill 413](#) (Representatives Tom Young and Bob Peterson) would create the Ohio Local Government Expenditure Database and would require that counties, municipalities, townships, public libraries, park districts, school districts, regional water and sewer districts, and regional transit authorities participate. The Local Government Expenditure Database would function similar to the Ohio Checkbook.

Under the bill, counties and the other local entities would be required to provide expenditure and revenue information to the Treasurer of State at least annually for the first five years and then at least every six months on an ongoing basis. The bill does not prescribe what information will be required to satisfy the requirements, instead requiring the Treasurer of State to set what must be submitted in rule.

CCAO testified as an [interested party](#) in support of the increased transparency the bill will bring, but with suggestions regarding reporting cadence, accommodations for counties that already have similar portals, and support for small governments in coming online. Ultimately, the House incorporated CCAO's suggestion on reporting cadence.

The House passed HB 413 by a vote of 91-5.

### Senate

[Senate Bill 315](#) (Senators Tim Schaffer and Hearcel Craig) requires the state to change SNAP EBT cards to chip-enabled cards for new and replacement cards and cards renewed periodically. The phase-in approach allows the state to replace the cards at a lower cost and with less disruption.

CCAO testified as a [proponent](#) on SB 315.

The Senate passed SB 315 by a vote of 30-0.

[House Bill 170](#) (Representatives Monica Robb Blasdel and Bob Peterson) makes changes regarding carbon capture and sequestration and generally does not have much county impact. However, the bill was amended last week to create a first-in-the-nation local impact fee for carbon capture and sequestration. Revenue from the fee will flow to the state and then be distributed out to counties that host carbon capture and sequestration sites. County commissioners will have control of the funds and can use them for broad purposes.

CCAO does not have a formal position on HB 170 but is broadly in support of provisions that increase revenue to counties.

The Senate passed HB 170 by a vote of 30-0. Since the bill was amended in the Senate, it will need a concurrence vote before it goes to the governor for consideration.

[Senate Bill 281](#) (Senator Kristina Roegner) permissively allows boards of county commissioners to award a franchise for the operation of a public transit system on its own behalf, instead of requiring it to be on the behalf of a county transit authority. The bill requires that the commissioners provide notice to the county transit board, if one exists, before taking the vote and the award must comply with all existing reporting requirements.

CCAO does not have a position on SB 281.

The Senate passed SB 281 by a vote of 29-0.

## **General Assembly committees amend bills of note to counties**

This week, committees in the General Assembly adopted amendments to several bills that may be of interest to counties.

### **Senate Bill 219, Mineral Royalties and RUMAs**

[Senate Bill 219](#) (Senator Al Landis) is a bill that makes several changes to the laws governing oil and gas activities. A substitute bill was adopted this week by the House Natural Resources Committee that made changes to two provisions that affected counties.

First, the bill previously included a new mechanism in the state treasury that would distribute federal mineral royalties received by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue to the county of origin. That mechanism was removed from the bill over concerns that it would violate federal law.

Second, the bill makes changes to the law governing road use maintenance agreements (RUMAs). Previously, the bill automatically sunset RUMAs between local governments and

horizontal well owners after three years and exempted individuals from the RUMA and heavy hauling permit if they attempted to reach a RUMA in good faith.

The new version of the bill removes the sunset provision and limits the exemption from needing a heavy hauling permit to vehicles operated in accordance within the RUMA's limits.

### **House Bill 635, Child Welfare Reform**

[House Bill 635](#) (Representatives Phil Plummer and Tom Young) makes several changes to laws governing the child welfare system. CCAO has testified as an interested party on the bill. The Association's main area of concern with the bill is an increase in mandatory visits with certain children in care, a provision expected to increase visits by 137%.

The House Children and Human Services Committee made amendments to the bill at its third hearing this week, but changes to the visitation requirements were not among them. The amendments instead primarily focused on information sharing by bringing disclosure requirements in line with federal limits and requiring law enforcement to submit all alleged domestic violence incidents where there is a child in the home to PCSAs instead of just submitting the information into the statewide child welfare system.

### **House Bill 317, Drone Discontinuance Date**

[House Bill 317](#) (Representative Ty Mathews) is a bill that prohibits any public entity from acquiring aerial drones assembled or manufactured by a "covered foreign entity." The definition of "covered foreign entity" entails any individual, foreign government, or party that is designated on a specified list by the U.S. Department of Commerce, is domiciled in China or Russia, is under the control of the government of China or Russia, or is a subsidiary or affiliate of any other entity that falls into one of those categories.

Under the original version of the bill, public entities using aerial drones assembled or manufactured by a covered foreign entity would have to discontinue its use by May 1, 2027.

The amendment adopted by the House Technology and Innovation Committee changed the discontinuation date to 24 months after the bill becomes effective, and allows operators to seek an exemption from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Aviation Administration, or the Federal Communications Commission.

### **House Bill 417, Animal Abuse Law**

[House Bill 417](#) (Representatives Phil Plummer and Tom Young) is a bill that makes changes to animal abuse laws, including putting prohibitions on certain individuals adopting or residing in a residence with dogs. The bill originally included a provision requiring the Auditor of State to establish a "Do Not Adopt" registry of persons convicted of or who have plead guilty to animal abuse offenses.

At the bill's third hearing in the House Public Safety Committee, HB 417 was amended to remove the requirement for the Auditor of State to establish that registry and instead permissively allows the board of county commissioners to create such a registry. Courts will be required to notify the board of commissioners about convictions and guilty pleas that require inclusion on any created Do Not Adopt registry.

The bill also requires the Ohio Department of Agriculture to create a statewide dangerous and vicious dog registry of every person issued a dangerous dog registration certificate from a county auditor and make the registry publicly available on its website. This provision was unchanged in the amendments adopted this week.

### **House Bill 223, Flag Purchases**

[House Bill 223](#) (Representatives Ty Mathews and Bernard Willis), in its original form, required the state and local governments to purchase United States flags and Ohio flags from domestic sources. An amendment adopted this week by the House Government Oversight Committee tightens the bill to require purchases of these flags to be made by Ohio producers.

Since Ohio Penal Industries already produces nearly all the U.S. and Ohio flags purchased by the state government, the Legislative Service Commission estimated a minimal cost for local governments under the As Introduced version. The amendment is unlikely to change that projection.

## **Bill to prohibit government aid to data centers receives first hearing; Joint Data Center Committee announced**

[House Bill 710](#) (Representatives Steve Demetriou and Heidi Workman), a bill to prohibit any public support for, and limit the construction of, new data centers, received its first hearing in the House General Government Committee.

The bill prohibits the state and local governments from offering any incentive for the construction and/or operation of new data centers. “Incentive” is defined as a “tax credit, grant, loan, economic development assistant, or other funding” from any public entity in the state. The definition also notably includes any of the above offered or provided by JobsOhio.

The bill also significantly curtails where new data centers could be sited. It would institute a blanket ban on siting new data centers on public land and land located within a platted residential neighborhood. The bill includes a ban on the use of eminent domain to acquire land for use as a new data center site.

During the hearing, the sponsors noted that eminent domain has not actually been used to benefit a data center yet, but the ban is included in the bill as a proactive measure.

It would also prohibit new data centers from being built on prime farmland unless the land is voluntarily sold **AND** the board of county commissioners adopts a resolution authorizing the construction of the data center.

Finally, the bill includes requirements on the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to ensure that any new data centers do not result in increased electricity rates for residential, agricultural, or small business customers.

The bill comes as the General Assembly ramps up scrutiny of data centers. Last week, it was announced that a new Joint Data Center Committee was being created to provide a centralized venue for discussion of data centers.

The joint committee will be co-chaired by the Energy Committee chairs from each chamber (Senator Brian Chavez and Representative Adam Holmes). The other members are Senator Bill Reineke, Senator Shane Wilkin, Senator Willis Blackshear, Representative Thad Claggett, Representative Workman, and Representative Chris Glassburn.

The joint committee is expected to hold its first hearings next week.

## Legislative Activity

### Committee Hearings

The following committees held hearings this week on bills that may be of interest to counties.

#### House Local Government

- [House Bill 493](#) (Representatives David Thomas and Dan Troy): To sunset the sale of delinquent property tax certificates on January 1, 2027, and to modify the rules governing the priority of liens after a property tax certificate sale.
  - Fifth hearing, opponent testimony from the County Treasurers Association of Ohio, the county treasurers of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Defiance, Delaware, Hamilton, Harrison, Lawrence, Putnam, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wyandot counties, the Ohio Land Bank Association, the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority, and NAR Solutions.
- [House Bill 445](#) (Representatives Mike Dovilla and Brian Stewart): Regarding regional councils of government and metropolitan planning organizations.
  - Second hearing, no testimony
  - **AMENDED** to limit the scope of the bill to metropolitan planning organizations that serve counties with a population of one million or more (in effect limiting the bill to MPOs serving Cuyahoga County or Franklin County)
- [House Bill 695](#) (Representatives Adam Bird and Brian Stewart): To prohibit certain local elected officials from entering into nondisclosure agreements.
  - Second hearing, proponent testimony from Policy Matters Ohio, the Mayor of South Bloomfield, and five private individuals.

#### House Agriculture

- [House Bill 163](#) (Representatives Tristan Rader and Kellie Deeter): To require Ohio's SNAP program to begin using chip-enabled EBT cards, to name this act the Enhanced Cybersecurity for SNAP Act of 2025, and to make an appropriation.
  - Sixth hearing, no testimony
  - **FAVORABLY REPORTED**

#### House Ways and Means

- [House Bill 504](#) (Representative Angie King): To authorize counties to temporarily exempt a portion of property's increased value from taxation following a reappraisal and to name this act the Calculated Adjustments for Property Surges (CAPS) Act.
  - Fifth hearing, opponent testimony from the County Auditors Association of Ohio and a coalition of three associations representing school administrators.
- [House Bill 737](#) (Representatives Bill Roemer and Thomas Hall): To require that cash payments to the state and local governments be rounded to the nearest nickel.
  - Third hearing, no testimony
  - **AMENDED** to make technical changes to rounding procedures recommended by the Ohio Department of Taxation.
- [House Bill 420](#) (Representatives Gary Click and Bernard Willis): To disallow and, by 2030, eliminate property taxes levied for a continuing period of time and to name this act The Taxpayers Freedom Trilogy – Act One: Discontinuing the Continuum.
  - Third hearing, opponent testimony from the County Auditors Association of Ohio, the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Municipal League, the Ohio Township Association, and several local school districts and public libraries.

#### **Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety**

- [House Bill 297](#) (Representatives Kevin Ritter and Johnathan Newman): To increase the amount a county may provide to military and veterans organizations for Memorial Day expenses.
  - Fourth hearing, no testimony
  - **FAVORABLY REPORTED**

#### **Senate General Government**

- [Senate Bill 335](#) (Senator Kent Smith): To make Election Day a holiday
  - First hearing, sponsor testimony
- [Senate Joint Resolution 9](#) (Senator Bill Blessing, III): Proposing to repeal Section 13 of Article XII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to no longer prohibit wholesale excise taxation on food and nonalcoholic beverages.
  - First hearing, sponsor testimony
- [Senate Bill 382](#) (Senator Bill Blessing, III): To implement a top-two primary election system for elective congressional, state, district, county, and municipal offices.
  - First hearing, sponsor testimony
  - **AMENDED** to limit the transition to a top-two primary system to non-judicial and non-local races, among other changes.

#### **Senate Local Government**

- [Senate Bill 366](#) (Senators Bill Blessing, III and Catherine Ingram): To sometimes require payment of delinquent property taxes and assessments when a lot is transferred.
  - Second hearing, proponent testimony from the County Treasurers Association and the county treasurers of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, and Stark counties.
- [Senate Bill 426](#) (Senator Al Cutrona): Regarding the closing of a public library branch and the forfeiture of public library funds for doing so.

- First hearing, sponsor testimony

### House Children and Human Services

- [House Bill 649](#) (Representatives Josh Williams and D.J. Swearingen): To enact the Child Care Fraud Prevention Act.
  - Fifth hearing, no testimony
  - **AMENDED** to make changes to investigation responsibilities of the Inspector General

### House General Government

- [House Bill 554](#) (Representative David Thomas): To require government entities and private sellers to accept cash as payment in certain circumstances.
  - Second hearing, proponent testimony by the National Armored Car Association, the Catholic Conference of Ohio, the Consumer Choice in Payment Coalition, a private company, and seven private individuals.

### Introduction of Bills

The following bill(s) that may be of interest to counties were introduced this week:

- [House Bill 921](#) (Representatives Josh Williams and DJ Swearingen): To require additional Ohio employers to use E-verify and to prohibit certain employment practices.
- [House Bill 924](#) (Representative Josh Williams): To create the court-appointed public defender loan repayment program.
- [House Bill 925](#) (Representative Josh Williams): To allow area agencies on aging to couple the state historic rehabilitation and low-income housing tax credits and require a minimum price for low-income housing tax credits transferred by area agencies on aging.
- [House Bill 936](#) (Representatives Rachel Baker and Mark Sigrist): To authorize a sales and use tax exemption for medical items and services eligible to be purchased with proceeds from flexible spending and health savings accounts.
- [House Bill 938](#) (Representatives Mark Hiner and Tex Fischer): To enact the No Free Advertising for Politicians Act to prohibit certain government signs from including a public official's personal name or likeness.
- [House Bill 940](#) (Representatives Christine Cockley and Michelle Grim): To require county boards of developmental disabilities to provide early intervention services to eligible children.

### Upcoming Committee Hearings

The following committees are currently scheduled to meet and discuss bills that may be of interest to counties. Other committees will likely meet as well, but as of press time for Statehouse Report, they have not released agendas. Please note that these schedules are subject to change.

Wednesday, May 27

[Select Committee on Data Centers](#) (10:00 a.m.)

Invited Testimony from:

- The Data Center Coalition
- PJM
- PUCO
- Ohio Consumers' Counsel
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Ohio Department of Development