



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Bill introduced to eliminate mandate counties fund state program with local tax revenue

This week, Representative Jason Stephens, a former Lawrence County Commissioner and Auditor, introduced [House Bill 988](#). The bill would eliminate the authority for the Ohio Department of Health to levy assessments against the county's total general property tax duplicate, no greater than 0.1 mills, to fund the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs program.

While the state does not formally collect any property taxes, this mandate, which has been in place for decades, essentially allows the Department of Health to require counties to send up property tax revenue to fund a state program.

According to Legislative Service Commission data, the mandate has diverted more than \$150 million from counties to the state since 2020.

Eliminating the county assessment is a long-standing [CCAO Platform position](#).

We thank Representative Stephens for bringing the legislation forward and look forward to working with him and the rest of the General Assembly on ensuring that county tax revenue stays where it belongs: the county.

Legislative Activity

Introduction of Bills

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

- [House Bill 989](#) (Representative Jason Stephens): To require the Department of Public Safety to reimburse a county, township, or township trustee for a township trustee's commercial driver's license training.

- [House Bill 990](#) (Representative Jason Stephens): To abate property taxes on certain property owned by a township.