



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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CCAO expands list of supported Senate budget amendments

With two weeks left until the Senate budget amendment deadline (May 16), CCAO is sharing the Association's list of supported amendments. Further amendments may be added in the coming days, and the most recent list will be available on our [Bill Tracker page](#). We urge our members to share these amendments with your Senator(s) to help show support for these county priorities.

Priority Amendment Requests

These amendments concern one of CCAO's five priority areas this budget: child welfare, indigent defense, Next Generation 9-1-1, county jail funding, and child care.

Indigent Defense

[SC-0832-1](#): Appropriates an additional \$21.25 million in SFY 2026 and \$28.25 million in SFY 2027 to reimburse county indigent defense costs. This will bring the funding for reimbursement in line with the Ohio Public Defender's (OPD) budget request. The amendment also removes a cap on the hourly rate OPD will reimburse.

Next Generation 9-1-1

[SC-0207](#) (Senator Brian Chavez): Increases the user fee that generates revenue for Next Generation 9-1-1 to \$1.25 per month.

Publicly Funded Child Care

SC-0460: Increases initial eligibility for publicly funded child care to 160% of the federal poverty level.

SC-0459: Appropriates an additional \$25 million in SFY 2027 for the Child Care Choice Voucher Program.

CCAO does not currently have copies of the actual amendment text. Links to amendment text will be added to the [Bill Tracker page](#) when available.

Other Amendment Requests

These amendments concern other areas of county operations.

Family and Children First Councils

[SC-0315](#): Removes language added in the House that would allow counties to eliminate their Family and Children First Council if certain conditions are met.

SNAP Administration

[SC-0220](#): Removes language added in the House that would have increased the administrative burden for county department of jobs and family services regarding SNAP administration by prohibiting counties from using simplified or quarterly reporting procedures.

Lodging Tax Revenue

[SC-0197](#): Allow counties that meet certain criteria to use up to 67% of their general lodging tax revenue for different select purposes.

Short-term rental sales and lodging tax bill receives proponent testimony from CCAO, counties, and CVBs

This week, then House Development Committee heard proponent testimony on House Bill 161 (Representatives Adam Bird and Jim Thomas), which would apply the sales and use tax and lodging taxes to “short-term rental” transactions. The bill closes a sales tax loophole where hotels are defined as those businesses with five or more rooms that provide lodging to transient guests by creating a separate “short-term rental property” definition as those businesses with four or fewer rooms that provide lodging to transient guests.

The [Legislative Service Commission estimates](#) that county sales tax revenue will increase between \$3 million and \$10 million and local lodging tax revenue will increase between \$3 million and \$32 million.

CCAO Research Analyst Nick Ciolli provided [proponent testimony](#), giving background on why the “small hotel” exemption is outdated given the growth of online platforms such as Airbnb and Vrbo. He also noted that the bill requires the tax be collected and remitted by the hosting platform, not the property owner. This provision maintains the intent of the small hotel exemption of letting short-term rental property owners avoid dealing with tax administration while ensuring that the state and counties receive due revenue.

[Erie County](#) and [Hancock County](#) both provided statements of support for bill as well, as did the Ohio Township Association, the Ohio Municipal League, and several county visitors/tourism bureaus.

Legislative Activity

Committee Hearings

The following committees held hearings this week regarding bills that may interest counties.

House Arts, Athletics, and Tourism

- [House Bill 138](#) (Representatives Mike Dovilla and Nick Santucci): To authorize the creation of tourism promotion districts and the levying of assessments therein.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony from Destination Cleveland, Hyatt Regency Columbus, Cleveland Marriot Downtown, Pizzuti Companies, Experience Columbus, and Civitas.

House Children and Human Services

- [House Bill 2](#) (Representative Mark Johnson): To establish the Child Care Cred Program and to make an appropriation.
 - Third hearing, proponent testimony from the Southwest Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children.
- [House Bill 7](#) (Representatives Andrea White and Sharon Ray): To make foster caregivers and kinship caregivers eligible for publicly funded child care.
 - Third hearing, proponent testimony from the Southwest Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children and three private individuals.
- [House Bill 41](#) (Representatives Andrea White and Bill Roemer): To establish certain child care grant programs, including those related to child care capacity and learning labs, and to make an appropriation.
 - Third hearing, proponent testimony from the Southwest Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children and the Akron-Canton Advocacy Alliance.

House Community Revitalization

- [House Bill 222](#) (Representatives Gary Click and Ty Mathews): To make changes to the laws governing the transfer and disposal of solid waste and construction and demolition debris and to provide for new procedures governing a county's withdrawal from a joint solid waste management district.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

House General Government

- [House Bill 196](#) (Representatives Rodney Creech and Angela King): To allow an elector who is not a member of a political party to protest a person's candidacy for that party's nomination on certain grounds and to provide space on candidacy forms for former names.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

House Public Safety

- [House Bill 1](#) (Representatives Angela King and Roy Klopfenstein): To modify the law that prohibits certain governments, businesses, and individuals from acquiring certain real property and to name this act the Ohio Property Protection Act.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony from the Ohio Farm Bureau, Attorney General Dave Yost, the Ohio Land Title Association, Representative Bernie Willis, and four other advocacy groups.

- **AMENDED** to require the Secretary of State consult with lists of drug cartels and terrorist organizations when compiling the list of those prohibited from acquiring property and makes changes to the applicability of exemption language.
- [House Bill 23](#) (Representatives Bill Roemer and Josh Williams): To create the escaped convict alert program.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony
- [House Bill 26](#) (Representatives Josh Williams and Tex Fischer): To require state and local authorities to cooperate with the federal government in the enforcement of immigration laws, to prescribe funding reductions for noncompliance, to name this act the Protecting Ohio Communities Act, and to declare an emergency.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

House Transportation

- [House Bill 199](#) (Representatives Kevin Miller and Phil Plummer): To make changes to the laws governing all-purpose vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, snowmobiles, utility vehicles, and mini-trucks.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

Senate General Government

- [Senate Bill 63](#) (Senators Theresa Gavarone and Bill DeMora): To generally prohibit the use of ranked choice voting and to withhold Local Government Fund distributions from a municipality or chartered county that uses ranked choice voting.
 - Fourth hearing, no testimony
 - **FAVORABLY REPORTED**
- [Senate Bill 88](#) (Senator Terry Johnson): To modify the law that prohibits certain governments, businesses, and individuals from acquiring certain real property and to name this act the Ohio Property Protection Act.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony from State Armor, interested party testimony from the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Global Business Alliance, Ohio REALTORS, the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, and opponent testimony from the City of Moraine.
- [Senate Bill 153](#) (Senators Theresa Gavarone and Andrew Brenner): To require verification of an elector's citizenship before the elector may vote and to modify procedures regarding voter registration, voter roll maintenance, absent voting, and election petitions.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony from FGA Action.

House Development

- [House Bill 17](#) (Representative Brian Lorenz): To classify certain storage condominiums as residential property for tax purposes.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony

House Local Government

- [House Bill 113](#) (Representatives Adam Bird and Johnathan Newman): To modify the law regarding annexation and financial disclosure forms, and to require school

district approval of residential community reinvestment area property tax exemptions.

- Second hearing, proponent testimony from Miami County Commissioner Wade Westfall, the Ohio Farm Bureau, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, Batavia Township, the Batavia Local School District, and eight private individuals.

House Natural Resources

- [House Bill 182](#) (Representative Levi Dean): To prohibit a public water system from adding fluoride to its water.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

House Ways and Means

- [House Bill 22](#) (Representatives Brian Lorenz and David Thomas): To authorize a full homestead exemption for surviving spouses of members of the uniformed services killed in the line of duty.
 - Fourth hearing, no testimony

Senate Addiction and Community Revitalization

- [Senate Bill 138](#) (Senator Terry Johnson): To modify various laws regarding boards of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services and to impose penalties for not registering recovery housing residences.
 - Third hearing, proponent testimony from Ohio Recovery Housing
 - **FAVORABLY REPORTED**

Introduction of Bills

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

- [House Bill 247](#) (Representative Kevin Miller): To make changes to the laws governing dogs, including dangerous and vicious dogs.
- [House Bill 251](#) (Representative Bernard Willis): To establish requirements related to the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle by law enforcement and to expressly incorporate additional aviation facilities into the Aeronautics Law.
- [Senate Bill 184](#) (Senator Michelle Reynolds): To establish residential economic development districts and to create a grant program for housing developments within such districts.
- [Senate Bill 185](#) (Senator Bill Blessing, III): To make changes to the laws governing dogs, including dangerous and vicious dogs.
- [Senate Bill 188](#) (Senator Tom Patton): To expand the offense of failure to comply with an order or signal of a law enforcement officer.