



Priority Items: Am. Sub. HB 59

1. Partial Restoration of Local Government Funds
 - Restore the Local Government Fund (LGF) to make the disproportionate cut sustained in the current biennium proportionate to what the state received, which was a 17% cut. Thus, CCAO requests that the percentage of state GRF revenues allocated to the LGF be changed from the Administration and House's proposed 1.69% to 2.52%. (The ratio was 3.68% in 2008.)
 - CCAO requests that the "hold harmless" provision, which exempts the 23 smallest counties from receiving severe cuts in their LGF allocations, be funded out of additional dollars rather than the minimal growth proposed to the LGF.
2. Eliminate the House-added provision enabling the Recorder's Special Fund be Mandatory (LOCCD9)

The House adopted an amendment that would make the county recorder's special fund - the equipment fund -- mandatory should it be requested by the recorder. Currently, commissioners have discretion over whether or not this special fund is warranted.

 - The bill could enable county revenue be earmarked and, thus, create an unfunded mandate on the county general fund as it would redirect revenue currently going to the county general fund to the recorder's special fund.
 - In addition, the proposal provides that the establishment of the fund "does not diminish the duty of the board of county commissioner to provide funding for the expenses incurred by, and the personnel necessary for the county recorder to perform the duties of office." CCAO finds the proposed language prohibiting any diminishing funding an unnecessary attempt to set new arbitrary funding standard that will likely lead to costly litigation.
3. Increase funding to county JFS departments to help fund the implementation of a new Medicaid eligibility determination system. \$10M/year of GRF would draw down an additional \$10M/year of federal funds.

By January 1, 2014 counties must have a new Medicaid eligibility determination system, per federal law. While eventually the new system will include determinations for other public assistance programs, like cash and food assistance, for CY14 county JFS departments will be working with two different systems, and may need to do twice the work as a result. Additional administrative dollars will help counties manage the implementation of the new system and minimize confusion for customers.
4. Maintain the local process for distributing LGF dollars within certain counties.

A proposal to change the statutory formula for the county undivided Local Government Funds (LGF) along with the process for adopting an alternative statutory formula is being suggested by Senator Seitz. His proposal likely would negatively impact 54 counties, positively help 4 counties, and have no impact on 30 counties. CCAO requests that such a change not be added to HB 59.

Other Requested Items

1. Remove authority for TIF funds to pay for township public safety expenses. (LOCCD8)
2. Modify the process of changing the size of behavioral health boards to provide for county commissioner input, given county commissioners are the primary appointing authority. And, remove change in ratio of local versus state appointments to local boards.

Supported Provisions

1. Combined levy option for Extension, soil & water, and ag society (LOCCD14) added by House.

2. Sale of real property by cities to counties (LOCCD17) added by House.
3. Removal of multi-county health levy proposal by House. (DOHCD19) CCAO does not oppose concept but opposed language as written.
4. Various sales & use tax provisions, generally. (TAXCD60) (TAXCD61)(TAXCD66)(TAXCD67)

Additional Provisions

1. CCAO continues to review the data collection provisions added by the House. (DASCD46)
2. Additional appropriation and a study for the "Clean Ohio Fund" added by the House. (DNRCD33 & LSCCD5) CCAO continues to review the study proposal.
3. CCAO continues to review the Lake Facilities Authorities provision added by the House. (TAXCD68)