



**HB 91 (Patton) – Public-Private Agreements
Proponent Testimony (Written Only)
Ohio Municipal League & Ohio Township
Association**

April 28, 2021

Chairman Stoltzfus, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Infrastructure and Rural Development Committee, on behalf of our respective organizations, we write in support of House Bill 91, which authorizes municipalities and townships to enter into public-private initiatives regarding public facilities.

House Bill 91 is a reintroduction of HB 218, which the OML and OTA supported in the last General Assembly as well. This permissive bill allows local governments to enter into public-private partnerships to renovate or construct buildings within their jurisdictions. Many cities, townships, and villages have much-needed infrastructure projects that they are unable to accomplish because they lack the funding to do so. This bill provides another option for municipalities and townships to procure the requisite funding to not only invest in safe and sustainable infrastructure, but to invest in the local economy.

Infrastructure is a key component of economic development for political subdivisions. Crumbling, unsafe infrastructure can deter businesses from choosing to locate a new or relocate an existing business in that area. When a municipality or a township can initiate capital improvement projects, there is an immediate and sustained impact on the local economy beyond the initial creation of jobs during construction. Additionally, public-private partnerships create “one stop shops” for local governments, relieving a municipality or township from having to manage multiple contracts, vendors, and consultants.

The language in HB 91 allows local governments, through the public-private agreement, to retain ownership of a building while the private sector builds, repairs, and maintains the building for up to 40 years. The private sector manages the risks and will be financially responsible for any subpar construction.

Investment in Ohio’s infrastructure is imperative, and that investment starts at the local level. House Bill 91 simply creates another tool municipalities and townships may use to finance crucial capital improvements and foster economic development. The Ohio Municipal League and the Ohio Township Association continue to support the goals on HB 91 and encourage its favorable passage. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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