



Chair Hoops, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and Members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development & Natural Resources. My name is Kevin Robison and I'm the Director of Taxation for the City of Dublin and Chair of the Ohio Municipal League Tax committee. I would like to express how House Bill 166 will affect the centralized collection of municipal net profit returns by the State Tax Department. Recent proposed amendments in the Budget Bill to Ohio Revised Code Sections 718.83, 718.85, and 718.90 will have significant effect on the net profit opt-in distributions made to municipalities. Under these changes the State would require municipalities to remit to the Treasurer of State full payment within thirty (30) days for any negative account balance notified by the State, or the State will be authorized to reduce or eliminate these municipal distributions.

Primarily the programming in the administration by the State for the opt-in accounts has been the cause of these negative report balances. The handling of taxpayer estimated declarations, refunds, and credits are directly causing these problems. Based upon the February 2019 statistics published on the State Tax Department's website the majority of cities have negatives on their distribution reports and 157 cities with an overall negative distribution from the State. For this reason, the State Tax Department asked for and received a \$2,000,000 payment from the State Controlling Board to cover these negative distributions to the cities.

With these proposed changes to Ohio Revised Code Section 718 the State would be able to take monies credited to taxpayers due to negative account balances caused by other taxpayers due to administrative programming policies. Additionally, if these account balances are still negative the State may take monies filed and paid to other municipal tax sources such as the Municipal Taxation of Electric, Electric Light, and Telephone companies administered by the State under Ohio Revised Code Section 5745 to satisfy the deficiencies.

Also, property taxes of real and public utility properties settled by the county auditor may be taken. Tracking the tax revenues from the State centralized administration and collection of the municipal net profit tax will become even more burdensome and may create issues with outside auditors verifying the accuracy of payments made by taxpayers.

I have personally been involved with a municipal working group with Tax Commissioner McClain to evaluate and solve problems with the State administration of municipal net profit returns. Many of these issues were caused by the policies in the centralized collection of municipal net profit returns being rushed into the previous Budget Bill. I feel that we have had good conversations on how to resolve these issues with the negative distributions of tax revenues. More time is needed to further discuss the ramifications of these amendments in the Budget Bill and suggest that these amendments be removed to allow for Interested Party meetings between the State Tax Department and municipalities for a better resolution to these issues.

In conclusion, the Ohio Municipal League and I believe that the language submitted by the Department of Taxation should be removed from the budget bill, and that the process of resolving programming and administrative issues should be allowed to happen through the Interested Parties meetings and cooperation between the Department of Taxation and municipalities. The success of this process is vital to all stakeholders, and we welcome the opportunity to be part of this process.