



Chairman Uecker, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Thomas and Members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of HB 291, the “Protect Local Treasuries Act”, which will grant local governments the option of purchasing employee dishonesty insurance policies in lieu of purchasing bonds.

Ohio law requires local government to purchase bonds for elected and public officials in order to protect taxpayer dollars from fraud or other dishonest employee actions. When the law was written, the only option available to those entities were bonds; however, many local governments today have recognized the value of purchasing insurance against fraud committed by those in public office. Their decision, at present, comes at cost to the local government because they are still required to bond those officials in addition to their purchased insurance policies.

The Ohio Municipal League supports HB 291, which gives municipalities the ability to choose what would be best for their jurisdiction; a bond, or an insurance policy greater than or equal to the bond rate set in the Ohio Revised Code.

The Protect Local Treasuries Act will grant municipalities and other local governments the power to choose the best way they can protect taxpayer dollars from fraud by their elected and public officials. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Regards,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League