

CALL-TO-ACTION

BILL TO STRIP LGF SUPPORT FROM MUNICIPALITIES AND PREEMPT LOCAL WATER DELIVERY PRACTICES UP FOR COMMITTEE VOTE TOMORROW

The League wants to alert our members that HB 602, legislation proposed by Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) which would preempt municipalities from setting water rates for political subdivisions to which they have extended water and sewer services, is up for opponent testimony and a possible vote tomorrow morning. A copy of the bill's analysis can be found [HERE](#).

HB 602 is another unnecessary preemption by the state on our cities and villages. This bill continues the unprecedeted growth of state government and eclipsing local authorities that, in this instance, will prevent municipalities from utilizing local research, best practices and data analysis to set local water rates when that municipality develops, installs and maintains water and sewer infrastructure to a neighboring township.

Municipalities alone bear the cost for designing the infrastructure, building it out to the township and then maintaining and updating that infrastructure into the future. These projects can run into the millions of dollars. Municipalities set their rates for neighboring townships based on research and data in order to recover costs. These rates are typically higher than rates for those inside the municipality because it simply does not cost as much to run the water and sewer infrastructure to the residents of the municipality.

If HB 602 is implemented, municipalities would be penalized not only in a reduction of Local Government Funds, but by being rendered ineligible for state water and sewer funds. Municipalities would be forced to bear the cost of expanding the infrastructure with no opportunity for reasonable cost recovery, passing the burden of that cost on to its residents.

Due to the late announcement Friday afternoon by the committee chairman's office regarding the bill's third hearing and possible vote tomorrow, we were unable to include the information in our legislative bulletin.

If you are able to testify in person, the bill will be heard **tomorrow** (Tuesday) in the **House Finance Committee** in **Hearing Room 313** in the Statehouse at **9am**. If you are unable to come testify in person, we ask that you submit written testimony to the Chairman's office at Rep71@ohiohouse.gov.

We are strongly encouraging our members to call their state representative today and express your opposition to HB 602 and the continued assault on the interests of our communities and the voters who determine practices best for their hometowns.