



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
COMMITTEE**

**KENT SCARETT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE**

SB 52

MARCH 5, 2019

Chair Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of SB 52, which would create the civilian cyber security reserve forces.

SB 52 addresses a growing threat to the security and finances of municipalities, especially smaller cities and villages. There have been an increasing number of instances where cities and villages have had their sensitive data taken hostage and held at ransom. In some cases, smaller villages without the resources to take any action have felt they have had to pay the ransom in order to have their data returned to them.

This legislation bridges the gap between smaller, under-resourced municipalities and Ohio's wealth of individuals in the cyber security profession. The proposed Ohio Cyber Reserve (OCHR), which would be established by the Governor's office and the Adjutant General's Department, would create and maintain regional Cyber Response Teams (CRT) made up of volunteers. These civilians, who are professional cyber security experts, would be vetted and trained in order to quickly and readily respond to a cyber-security threat.

When a city or village comes under a cyber-attack and lacks the resources to deter it, the Governor will be able to dispatch a local Cyber Response Team to help mitigate and resolve the security threat. SB 52 creates a much-needed solution to a growing problem, one that municipalities across Ohio need with increasing urgency.

We want to thank Sen. Gavarone for introducing this important legislation and we want to thank you for your consideration of this bill. We urge for a favorable passage of SB 52.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League