



*Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments**

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Legislative Service Commission

Sub. H.B. 524

124th General Assembly
(S. Finance & Financial Institutions)

Specifies the conditions under which a school district whose portion of a state-assisted school facility project has a basic cost of at least \$100 million may incur debt of up to 2% of tax valuation without a vote of the electors when issuing bonds for the project.

Permits a federal home loan bank to serve as a qualified trustee for the safekeeping of securities, including those pledged by a public depository as collateral for the repayment of state and political subdivision money under the Uniform Depository Act.

Changes which multifamily housing groups are designated as organizations and which are designated as corporations for purposes of representation on the Ohio Housing Finance Agency; requires that a representative of multifamily housing interests be employed by an organization that is active in the area of affordable housing development or management; and provides that a member representing multifamily housing interests may benefit from a contract for a loan, grant, etc. from the agency without violating the Ohio Ethics Law if the contract is awarded pursuant to rules or guidelines (not just rules) of the agency.

Permits municipal corporations to levy special assessments for acquiring and improving existing parking facilities and structures for off-street parking.

Establishes a process by which a petition may be brought for the election of a commission to study and determine conditions for the merger of school districts in counties that meet certain conditions.

Allows individual state-assisted post-secondary educational institutions in Ohio (not just the Ohio Board of Regents) to enter into reciprocal contracts with state-assisted post-secondary educational institutions in contiguous states for the charging of tuition and fees at in-state rates and mandates specific reporting requirements.

* This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate floor.

Provides that the title to investments made by a state-supported university or college be held in trust by the board of trustees, rather than vested in the state; mandates that the board invest its funds in conformity with a "prudent person" policy; and requires that the board establish an investment committee.

Exempts the Southern Ohio Veterans Home in Brown County from having to obtain a certificate of need for the addition of up to 168 nursing home beds if the beds are placed in service prior to December 31, 2004.

Permits counties and municipal corporations to levy property taxes for roads that last more than five years, to levy property taxes specifically for sidewalks, bikeways, and the like, and to combine the two kinds of levy (all subject to voter approval).

Permits political subdivisions granting property tax exemptions to compensate joint vocational school districts (not just city, local, or exempted village school districts) for foregone property tax revenue.

Changes, from 28 days to 30 days, the minimum lease term for the purpose of determining whether a transaction is taxable as a lease under the sales and use tax law.

Changes, from 2,000 pounds of carrying capacity to 13,500 pounds of gross vehicle weight, the threshold for determining whether sales or use tax on a motor vehicle lease must be paid up front.

Authorizes the Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County to construct, as a pilot project and by using the design-build construction method, a lodge and conference center at Geneva State Park on land leased from the Department of Natural Resources.

Ratifies previously effective rules that might be of questionable validity because they incorporate text by reference.

Requires the Director of Budget and Management, on or before August 1, 2002, to determine and certify to the Director of the Legislative Service Commission the unexpended, unobligated amount appropriated for the Legislative Task Force on Redistricting for FY 2002 and appropriates the certified amount for the same purpose for FY 2003.

Removes a \$1.5 million reappropriation for Sports Facilities Improvements--Youngstown, and creates a new \$1.5 million appropriation for Administrative Technology Computer Systems Improvements at Youngstown State University.

Removes redundant language referring to the transfer of Big Eight classroom facilities program balances and transfers the unencumbered, unallotted balance of the Emergency School Building Repair Program appropriation to the Public School



Buildings and the School Building Program Assistance appropriations to fund classroom facilities improvements.

Removes language stating that the \$2,005,420 reappropriated for Statehouse Security Improvements is the unencumbered, unallotted balance of the appropriation as of June 30, 2002, less \$1,050,000, and specifies instead that \$1,050,000 of the \$2,005,420 reappropriation is to be used, in conjunction with funds specifically appropriated for Garage Fire Suppression, for the installation of a new fire suppression system in the State House garage.

Removes all of the \$16,287,976 in capital reappropriations for the Orient Correctional Institution, which is scheduled to be closed by April 2002.

H0524.124/ss

03/20/02

