



## **H.B. 299**

125th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Gibbs, Calvert, Seitz, Gilb, Raussen, Fessler, D. Evans, Faber, Collier, Kearns, Schmidt, Hartnett, Barrett, Wolpert**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Permits a board of township trustees to vacate township roads within its jurisdiction.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **Current law**

Under current law, there are a variety of ways by which township roads can be vacated by the board of county commissioners. If a township road or part of a township road remains unopened for seven years after an order establishes it or after authority is granted for opening it, it must be vacated by the board of county commissioners (R.C. 5553.10). The board of county commissioners, on its own or if petitioned by 12 freeholders residing in the vicinity of a road proposed to be vacated, may vacate a township road after viewing the location and determining that the action is for the public convenience or welfare (R.C. 5553.04). In addition, if a petition is filed with the board of county commissioners by any abutting landowner, a township road that is abandoned and has not been used for a period of 21 years can be vacated (after formal proceedings) in the board's discretion (R.C. 5553.042).

#### **Changes proposed by the bill**

The bill permits a board of township trustees to vacate any township road within its jurisdiction by adopting a resolution finding that the vacation is in the best interests of the township, but only after holding a public meeting on the matter. The resolution must order the road vacated, and, upon its adoption, the road ceases to be a public road. A certified copy of the resolution must be forwarded to the board of county commissioners, the county engineer, and the county recorder. This method of vacating a township road is in addition to the methods described under "Current law," above. (R.C. 5553.045.)

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	10-14-03	p. 1109

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