

The Ohio Municipal League (OML) has reviewed the draft of the Local Impact Statement Report for Bills Enacted in 2010 and would like to make the following comments.

The report provides helpful information to organizations representing local governments, their respective members, and the public: information that would otherwise be difficult to compile. It shows that numerous pieces of legislation have a potential negative impact on local governments, whose officials are already faced with declining revenues.

An area that still needs to be addressed is the section of law that exempts LSC from having to update a local impact statement for the biennial budget, capital appropriations bill or any other budget corrections bills. The League would support legislation that would allow the General Assembly to include these bills that are now exempted in Division (F) of ORC 103.143 from these local impact statements. OML also believes that local impact statements should be required at each phase of the legislative process. This is particularly important as substitute versions and amended substitute version of bills are accepted. Legislation can have a huge fiscal impact upon local governments and should be known to all as these bills progress through the legislature.

We are always optimistic that this document will gain a larger recognition with state decision makers as they consider imposing additional programs or duties on local governments or reduce or limit their funding. The OML commends the staff of the Legislative Service Commission for the time and effort they put into the individual statement and this report.