



## OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

The Ohio School Boards Association would like to thank the Ohio Legislative Service Commission and the efforts that have gone into preparing the 2004 Local Impact Statement Report. As per Section 103.143 of the Ohio Revised Code division (D) it allows OSBA and other political subdivisions to comment on this annual local impact statement report.

The issue of unfunded and underfunded mandates on schools and other political subdivisions continues to be of concern. Local impact statements help legislators understand the potential fiscal impact of proposed legislation they are considering. Their importance cannot be overstated.

To address concerns with the local impact statement law, OSBA continues to support the recommendations by the now defunct State and Local Government Commission. The Commission recommended that the General Assembly amend the local impact statement law to require impact statements throughout the process and to repeal the budget appropriations exceptions in the law.

The 2004 Local Impact Statement Report shows that 132 bills passed in 2004 and became law. LSC should have the authority to analyze the fiscal impact of bills throughout the whole legislative process. Legislation can change many times before a final version is reached and the potential for negative fiscal impact on local political subdivisions exists by amendments to any piece of legislation.

OSBA would once again like to thank the LSC for their work in providing fiscal analysis of bills and resolutions and that this service is invaluable to legislators and the whole process. Local impact statements provide full information on legislation that threatens the fiscal integrity of a political subdivision. The knowledge of negative fiscal consequences for a political subdivision makes it less likely the bill will survive the legislative process. OSBA looks forward to working with the LSC and the Ohio General Assembly in improving the legislative process.