

# Local Government

## H.B. 340

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Cupp

**Effective date:** March 24, 2021

- Alters the procedures for proposing and approving the construction and maintenance of drainage projects by counties and soil and water conservation districts.
- Regarding multi-county drainage improvements specifically, designates the county in which the largest portion of a drainage project is located as the lead county for the project rather than the county in which the petition for the project is filed as under prior law.

## H.B. 444

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Baldrige and Abrams

**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

### **Industrial development bonds**

- Authorizes a township to issue industrial development bonds.
- Eliminates the requirement that a county or municipal corporation designate a community improvement corporation as its agency for industrial, commercial, distribution, and research development before issuing industrial development bonds.

### **Notice of conforming boundary changes**

- Requires municipalities to give notice to affected townships when the municipality seeks to conform boundaries.

### **Nuisance**

- Removes the requirement for townships to collect certain nuisance costs “as other taxes.”
- Requires that certain nuisance costs be returned to the township and placed in the township’s general fund as is provided by other existing nuisance provisions of township law.

### **Employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy**

- Allows a political subdivision to switch from utilizing bonds to a policy when its officers are mid-term or during its employees’ employment, whereas former law required a policy to be in place before an officer took office or before an employee began employment.

- Allows certain park districts, juvenile facilities, and detention facilities to utilize an employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy in lieu of surety bonds as was required under former law.
- Specifically authorizes a policy to be used in lieu of a surety bond by the following: certain park district commissioners, juvenile facility superintendents, detention facility superintendents, county homes, deputy registrars, and executive directors and superintendents of a children's home.
- Expands the definition of a policy to include one that protects against losses that otherwise would be protected against under a surety bond and other losses as determined by the political subdivision.
- Allows a political subdivision to utilize a policy to cover any entity or individual as determined by the political subdivision, whereas former law only allowed the policy to cover officers, employees, and appointees who otherwise must give a surety bond.

### **Cemetery conveyance**

- Requires a cemetery association or religious society that conveys cemetery grounds to a township to also transfer all cemetery records and funds to the township.
- Eliminates the requirement that a township accept conveyance of, and responsibility for, cemetery grounds if the cemetery association or religious society attempting to convey the grounds will retain an interest in, or use of, abutting property or property from which the grounds were divided.

### **EMS ambulance staffing**

- Allows any individual authorized under continuing law to drive an ambulance for an emergency medical service organization to drive the ambulance to the scene of an emergency without having an EMT, advanced EMT (AEMT), or paramedic present in the ambulance, as former law required.
- Specifies that in the scenario described above, the authorized individual must (1) meet an EMT, AEMT, or paramedic at the scene of the emergency and (2) continue as the driver while transporting a patient from the scene of the emergency (to ensure at least one medical professional is in the back with the patient).

### **Special improvement districts boundaries**

- Allows special improvement districts to be created within the territory of noncontiguous townships or municipal corporations.

### **Property tax**

- Authorizes a municipal corporation or township to use revenue from a combined levy for fire, emergency medical, and police services to fund police and firefighter pension contributions, police services' contracts, and volunteer firefighters' annuities, which, under continuing law, may be funded with single-purpose police or fire service levies.

- Specifies that an existing levy renewed, with voter approval, at the same or a higher or lower rate may commence during the last tax year that the existing levy may apply or the following tax year.
- Establishes a temporary procedure by which a township may apply for tax exemption and the abatement of unpaid taxes, penalties, and interest due on former university property.

### **Jefferson County county court**

- Includes Cross Creek Township as one of the locations where the Jefferson County Court holds court.

## **H.B. 450**

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Stephens

**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

- Requires county treasurers and fiscal officers, when leaving office, to provide a certificate of transition to their successors.
- Requires the certificate of transition to be in a form and contain substance as prescribed by the Auditor of State (AOS), including an inventory of documents, accounts, and any other information the AOS prescribes.
- Requires the AOS to solicit input from county treasurers and fiscal officers, or from their affiliated groups, before prescribing the inventory of items.
- Authorizes the AOS to “test the accuracy” of any certificate and report discrepancies or findings as in an audit report or actions for recovery of public money or property illegally spent or misappropriated and for criminal action against the public officer.
- Removes the statutory eligibility requirements for political subdivisions to receive agreed-upon procedure (AUP) audits from the AOS, and continues the AUP audits under rules adopted by the AOS.

## **S.B. 163**

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Kunze

**Effective date:** Emergency: October 22, 2020

### **Registration fee proration**

- Prorates the additional registration fees for plug-in electric motor vehicles (\$200) and hybrid motor vehicles (\$100) based on the number of months for which the vehicle is registered.

## Traffic camera LGF reductions

- Requires counties, townships, and municipalities (local authorities) to report all traffic camera fines collected in the preceding fiscal year, rather than only those fines that were based on violations that occurred in that fiscal year.
- Limits the amount subtracted from a county undivided local government fund (CULGF) due to traffic camera fines to the amount of the payment the local authority using traffic cameras would have otherwise received from that fund.
- Defers excess traffic camera fines to subsequent years until they are fully deducted from the local authority's Local Government Fund (LGF) payments.
- Applies traffic camera reductions to the supplemental LGF payments received by townships and small villages.
- Limits state reimbursement of traffic camera fines for violations in school zones to the amount by which a local authority's LGF payments were actually reduced.
- Reimburses local authorities for LGF penalties incurred in FY 2021 due to another local authority's traffic camera fines.
- Prescribes transitional procedures to implement the act's changes to the computation and administration of traffic camera LGF reductions in FY 2021.

## Nonstandard license plates

- Creates 33 new nonstandard license plates.
- Authorizes a person who is eligible for both a Purple Heart license plate and a license plate imprinted with the International Symbol of Access to apply for a single plate that displays both symbols.
- Exempts a Gold Star immediate family member who applies for the "Gold Star Family" license plate from all registration taxes and fees.
- Redirects the contributions for the "Girl Scouts" license plate from the Great River Council of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America to the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland.
- Authorizes any person to purchase and display the "Freemason" license plate and adds a \$15 contribution to purchase that license plate.
- Redirects contributions for the "Glen Helen Nature Preserve" license plate from the Glen Helen Ecology Institute of Antioch College to the Glen Helen Association.