
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill would allow counties and townships to join in contracts with other counties and townships, and to participate in joint purchasing programs administered through national or state associations of political subdivisions, to purchase equipment, materials, supplies, or services. Home rule powers under the Ohio Constitution, Article XVIII, give municipalities the right to join in contracts for these purchases, and only one county has exercised such authority. Townships do not have the authority to join in contracts. Because of the limitations on counties and townships can currently only join in contracts with other municipalities.

The joint purchasing programs of certain national and state associations offer products and services such as office supply purchases and insurance at greatly reduced costs from through independent contracting.

Under the bill, counties and townships would also have the authority to issue bonds and other self-supporting securities to pay for their and other political subdivisions' permanent improvements under this bill. Again, municipalities have the right to issue self-supporting securities under home rule powers. The bill would allow counties and townships the same ability.

This legislation is permissive, and it has the potential for cost savings to the local governments.

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