



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

6500 Taylor Road, Ste. A

Blacklick, OH 43004

Phone: (614) 863-0045 Fax: (614) 863-9751

www.OhioTownships.org

**House Bill 413, Local Government Expenditure Database
House Technology & Innovation Committee
February 17, 2026**

Chairman Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the House Technology & Innovation committee, my name is Kyle Brooks, and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Ohio Township Association. On behalf of Ohio's 1,308 townships, thank you for the opportunity to provide written opposition testimony on HB 413, Local Government Expenditure Database.

The Ohio Township Association fully supports transparency in local government and the responsible use of taxpayer dollars. Our members are committed to openness and accountability to the residents they serve. However, as currently drafted, this legislation represents a significant unfunded mandate on local governments, particularly Ohio's smaller and more rural townships.

Ohio's 1,308 townships vary greatly in size, staffing, and resources. While some larger townships may have administrative staff and modern technology systems, many smaller townships operate with only their four elected officials and limited technological capacity. In fact, some townships operate with only a single Uniform Accounting Network, or UAN, computer in the fiscal officer's office. These townships do not have dedicated IT staff, websites, or additional administrative infrastructure. The requirements outlined in this bill would require new processes, additional time, and potentially new technology or services that these townships are not currently equipped to provide. Because townships rely primarily on property tax revenue and do not have alternative revenue streams, any new mandate of this nature unfortunately means additional costs can only be addressed through requests for additional property tax levies approved by local voters.

In addition, we note that the Treasurer of State's office receives approximately \$2.5 million annually to operate and maintain the state expenditure database. However, there is no funding included in this bill to assist local governments with the costs of compliance.

We respectfully ask the committee to recognize the operational and financial realities facing Ohio's townships and to consider flexibility, technical assistance, or funding support to ensure that implementation is feasible for all communities, regardless of size.

The OTA is committed to working with the bill sponsors and the Chair to find a balance between promoting transparency and ensuring that implementation requirements are practical and sustainable for townships. We look forward to continuing these discussions and hope to find common ground so that we may move from opposition to support.

Thank you for considering our position. If you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me or OTA Executive Director Heidi M. Fought at 614-863-0045.

Sincerely,

Kyle A. Brooks
Director of Governmental Affairs

