OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

House Bill 129 Senate Testimony

Last week, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce provided proponent testimony on House Bill 129 (HB 129) before the Ohio Senate Local Government Committee.

HB 129 works to address sharp increases in property taxes by modernizing how certain school levies are calculated. Beginning in tax year 2026, the bill would include fixed-sum levies, such as existing emergency and substitute levies, in the calculation of a school district's 20-mill floor and the 2-mill floor for joint vocational school districts.

The legislation also authorizes school districts to levy fixed-sum property taxes in limited cases, such as during fiscal distress or a declared emergency. These levies could be used only for current operating expenses, would be limited to five years, and could not be renewed.

HB 129 passed the Ohio House with strong bipartisan support and a vote of 81–16.