
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

County auditor financial report filing

- Conforms county law to general law applicable to public offices using generally accepted accounting principles by increasing, from 90 to 150, the number of days within which a county auditor must prepare a financial report of the county.

Board of county commissioners deadline to organize

- Modifies the date by which a board of county commissioners must organize annually to choose one of its members to serve as president for one year.

Township road construction estimates

- Eliminates the requirement that a board of township trustees provide notice of the cost estimate of a proposed road improvement project when advertising for bids for the project.
- Specifies that a board is not required to provide notice of the cost estimate or amended estimate when the board readvertises for bids if the original bidding process did not yield a bid within 110% of the estimate.

Transient vendors in township territory

- Authorizes boards of township trustees to prohibit transient vendors from soliciting at any residence at which the owner or tenant has either posted a no solicitation sign, or has filed a no solicitation registration form with the township.
- Eliminates the board's authority to outright prohibit transient vendors from soliciting within the township's unincorporated territory.
- Revises the definition of "transient vendor."

Commercial advertising on township websites

- Authorizes townships to sell commercial advertising space on their websites under certain conditions.

Village dissolution

- Allows the electors of a village to petition the board of elections, as an alternative to the legislative authority, for the dissolution of the village.



- Decreases, from 40% to 30%, the portion of electors in a village that is sufficient to petition the legislative authority or board of elections for the dissolution of the village.
- Provides for the timely transfer of village property and services upon the dissolution of the village.
- Allows the village and affected townships to enter into agreements concerning the transfer of real and personal property other than electric, water, and sewer utility property, or the property vests by law in the affected townships.
- Requires the Auditor of State to perform and complete an audit or agreed-upon procedure audit before transferring any cash balances to a township or utility service provider following the village dissolution.
- Specifies that the surrender of corporate powers by a village does not affect the village's power to operate utilities.
- Specifies that a dissolving village may incur liability to the extent it is necessary in connection with the operations of the village's utilities.
- Requires water and sewer utility property to be transferred by agreement entered into by the village and the entity that will be taking over the provision of utility services.
- Requires a dissolving village to take all necessary steps to transfer the ownership and operation of electric utilities to a successor entity.
- Requires a dissolving village's electric utility to continue "normal operations and activities," to continue fulfilling the village's contractual obligations, and to collect charges at rates in effect on the date a certificate of dissolution was filed.

Local annual reports to Auditor of State

- Eliminates the Auditor of State as an entity to which a municipality and a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services must provide a copy of their annual reports.

Cybersecurity training for local fiscal officers

- Adds cybersecurity to the list of subjects to be covered in the education programs conducted by the Auditor of State and the Treasurer of State for persons elected to local government fiscal offices.



Metropolitan housing authorities

- Permits two or more metropolitan housing authorities (MHAs) to enter into a shared services agreement.
- Clarifies that MHA plans to improve blighted areas can include housing as well as other projects, and those projects can include commercial and residential purposes.
- Prohibits an MHA from providing a federal rent subsidy to a tenant who does not meet federal HUD income restrictions, instead of requiring the MHA to deny housing to the tenant.

Regional councils of governments

- Authorizes a regional council of governments to contract to administer and coordinate the self-funded health benefits program of a nonprofit corporation if the council has an educational service center as its fiscal agent.

Reimbursement to law enforcement agencies

- Authorizes a court to order an OVI offender to reimburse a law enforcement agency for costs associated with administering blood or urine tests if the tests indicated a prohibited concentration of a controlled substance.

Commissary profits for screening equipment

- Allows the sheriff of a county jail to use profits from the jail's commissary to purchase technology designed to prevent contraband from entering the jail.

Multi-jurisdictional local correctional centers

- Specifies that a multi-jurisdictional local correctional center's operational standards and procedures may be amended by agreement of a majority of the voting members of the center's corrections commission or by other means specified in the contract establishing the center.
- Clarifies that items required for the standards and procedures are also required for the amendments.

Port authority competitive bid threshold

- Changes to \$150,000 the threshold amount above which a port authority generally must use competitive bidding for construction contracts.



Foreclosure and auctioning

- Expressly permits deposits to be made by a financial transaction device if the foreclosure sale is held online.
- Requires the purchaser at a foreclosure sale to submit a statement indicating intent to use the property as residential rental property, instead of a statement indicating whether the purchaser will occupy the property.
- Expands who can be the contact person for a business entity for the purposes of providing this information.
- Exempts the purchaser at a foreclosure sale from the requirement to submit contact information if the purchaser is the plaintiff or a lienholder who is a party to the foreclosure action.

Urban renewal projects

- Adds environmental remediation as a purpose for which a municipal corporation can undertake an urban renewal project to prevent the spread of blight.
- Adds contamination by hazardous substances or petroleum to the definition of "blight," for purposes of the urban renewal projects laws.
- Permits parties to a development agreement (an agreement to rehabilitate the real property structures in an urban redevelopment area) to agree to a level of service payments, in lieu of property taxes, that is higher than the amount that would be generated by the assessed value of the improvements.
- Adds to the definition of "revenues," for purposes of the urban renewal projects laws, revenue available to the municipal corporation pursuant to a development agreement.

Municipal planning commissions

- Authorizes the appointment of some "public members," who may be nonresidents of the municipal corporation, to serve on a municipal planning commission.
- Requires these nonresident public members to reside within the county in which the municipal corporation is located or in a township adjacent to the county.
- Retains the requirement for the "citizen members" to be residents of the municipal corporation.



- Specifies that all members are subject to the prohibition against public officials having an unlawful interest in a public contract.

Noncharter village disbursements

- Requires two signatures for noncharter village fund disbursements.

Funds disbursed to municipal treasurers

- Requires that the county auditor disburse to a municipal treasurer taxes and assessments certified to the county auditor by a municipality and placed on the tax list for collection, and moneys accruing to and debts due the municipality, on the order of any person authorized by law or ordinance to issue orders therefor.

Investment of county inactive moneys

- With respect to the investment of a county's inactive moneys and money in the public library fund: (1) increases, from 25% to 40%, the amount of a county's total average portfolio that can be used for certain commercial paper notes and bankers acceptances and (2) limits the total investments in commercial paper notes of a single issuer to 5% of interim moneys available for investment at the time of purchase.

Storage of firearms in private motor vehicles

- Creates a civil cause of action against a business entity, property owner, or employer whose policy prohibits a valid concealed handgun licensee from transporting or storing a firearm or ammunition in the person's privately owned motor vehicle in accordance with the law.

County auditor financial report filing

(R.C. 319.11)

The act increases, from 90 to 150, the number of days after the close of the fiscal year within which a county auditor must prepare a financial report of the county for the preceding fiscal year. The former 90-day requirement varied from the general requirement under continuing Ohio law that public offices using generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") prepare the report within 150 days.¹⁷¹ Because counties

¹⁷¹ R.C. 117.38, not in the act.



are required to prepare their financial reports using GAAP, the act conforms county law with the 150-day requirement applicable to local public offices using GAAP.¹⁷²

Board of county commissioners deadline to organize

(R.C. 305.05)

The act modifies the date by which a board of county commissioners must organize annually to choose a president. Under the act, a board must organize *not later than* the second Monday of January each year. Under former law, a board was required to organize on that specific day.

Township road construction estimates

(R.C. 5575.02 and 5575.03)

The act modifies the content that must be included in an advertisement for bids for a township road improvement project. Specifically, it eliminates the requirement that a board of township trustees provide notice that estimates of the project cost are on file with the board.

The act also specifies that a board is not required to provide notice of the county engineer's estimate or amended estimate if the board readvertises for bids for a road improvement project. Under continuing law, unchanged by the act, the board must readvertise for bids based either on the county engineer's original estimate or an amended estimate if the board has not received a bid that is equal to or less than 110% of the county engineer's original estimate.

Transient vendors in township territory

(R.C. 505.94)

The act authorizes a board of township trustees, by resolution, to prohibit transient vendors from soliciting at any residence at which the owner or tenant has either posted a sign on the property prohibiting solicitation, or for which the owner or tenant has filed a no solicitation registration form with the township, on a form prescribed by the board. The act eliminates the board's authority to outright prohibit transient vendors from selling, offering for sale, or soliciting orders for the future delivery of goods, within the township's unincorporated territory.¹⁷³

¹⁷² O.A.C. 117-2-03.

¹⁷³ Courts have held that laws regarding vendor solicitation must be narrowly tailored to serve a substantial governmental interest. *See, e.g., Ohio Citizen Action v. City of Englewood*, 671 F.3d 564 (6th Cir.



One of the characteristics of being a "transient vendor" was that the person solicits orders for future delivery of goods "where payment is required prior to the delivery of the goods." The act eliminates the phrase in quotation marks, thus expanding the definition of "transient vendor."

Under prior law, a nonprofit entity was not a transient vendor if it notified a board of township trustees of its presence in the township for the purpose of selling or offering for sale goods, soliciting orders for future delivery of goods, or attempting to arrange an appointment for a future estimate or sales call. The act eliminates the notification requirement so that any person that is a nonprofit entity is not a transient vendor.

Commercial advertising on township websites

(R.C. 503.70)

The act authorizes townships to sell commercial advertising space on their websites if the websites are not on the dot-gov domain, where such advertising is prohibited by federal guidelines. The use of commercial advertising must comply with state and federal law, including R.C. 9.03, explained below, and any federal regulations or guidelines on the use of commercial advertising on the Internet dot-gov domain or other federally controlled public domains.

The act requires a township to adopt a resolution to authorize commercial advertising on its website. The resolution must specify the manner of making requests for proposals that identify advertisers whose advertisements will meet the criteria specified in the request for proposals and any requirements and limitations specified in the resolution. The act authorizes a contract between the township and a qualified advertiser for the placement of commercial advertising on the township's website in exchange for a fee paid to the township general fund.

Continuing state law, R.C. 9.03, provides specific parameters on the use of public funds for communications with the public. Among other things, it provides that a political subdivision may use public funds to publish and distribute newsletters, "or to use any other means, to communicate information about the plans, policies, and operations of the political subdivision to members of the public within the political subdivision and to other persons who may be affected by the political subdivision." Public funds may not be used for certain types of communication, including among

Ohio 2012); and *City of Tiffin v. Boor*, 109 Ohio App.3d 337 (Ohio Ct. App., Seneca County 1996) in which the court held that while the city of Tiffin is free to place restrictions on the practice of door-to-door solicitation, it may not enforce an ordinance that completely bans the practice.



others, things that support or oppose "the nomination or election of a candidate for public office, the investigation, prosecution, or recall of a public official, or the passage of a levy or bond issue." The use of public funds for charitable or public service advertising is allowed if it is not commercial in nature and otherwise complies with the section. Presumably, the authority to sell commercial advertising that is authorized by the act could not be used for charitable or public service advertising because it is commercial in nature and would be in violation of the prohibition in R.C. 9.03.

Village dissolution

(R.C. 703.20 and 703.21)

Petition to the board of elections

The act provides an alternative means for submitting a petition for dissolution (surrender of corporate powers) to the legislative authority when the legislative authority fails to act on a petition within 30 days after receiving it. Under the act, the electors alternatively may present the petition to the board of elections of the county in which the largest portion of the village's population resides to determine the validity and sufficiency of the signatures. If the petition is sufficient, the board of elections will submit the question of surrendering corporate powers to the electors at the next general or special election occurring at least 90 days after filing the petition with the board of elections. If the result is in favor of the surrender, the board of elections must certify the results to the Secretary of State and the county recorder as required under continuing law, along with the Auditor of State as required under the act. The act provides that the corporate powers of the village cease upon the recording in the county recorder's office.

The act decreases, from 40% under prior law to 30% under the act, the portion of electors in a village that is sufficient to petition the legislative authority or board of elections for the dissolution of the village.

Disposition of money and property upon dissolution

When a petition is filed directly with the board of elections, a copy must also be filed with the board of township trustees of each township affected by the dissolution. Under prior law, upon the dissolution of a village, all moneys or property remaining after the dissolution belongs to the township or townships located wholly or partly within the village. The act makes the ownership of remaining money and property subject to agreements between or among the village and township or townships and subject to an audit or, at the discretion of the Auditor of State, agreed-upon procedures performed by the Auditor. The audit or agreed-upon procedures must begin within 30



days after the Auditor receives the notice of dissolution¹⁷⁴ provided for under continuing law. Cash balances are to be transferred at the completion of the audit or agreed-upon procedures. The Auditor must assist in facilitating a timely and systematic manner for complying with the requirements for transfer of village money and property.

Under prior law, if more than one township was to receive the remaining money or property, the money or property would be divided among the townships in proportion to the amount of territory that each township had within the village boundaries as compared to the total territory within the village. The act allows the agreements to provide otherwise.

Real and personal property

The act requires that village real and personal property, other than electric, water, and sewer utility property, must be transferred in a timely manner in accordance with *agreements* between or among the affected village and township or townships. If agreements are not reached within 60 days after the certificate of dissolution is filed with the county recorder, the title to real and personal property vests by operation of law in the affected township or townships as specified under prior law: in proportion to the amount of territory that each affected township has within the village boundaries as compared to the total territory within the village.

The act requires that any agreements regarding the transfer of real property must be recorded with the county recorder of the county in which the affected real property is situated along with affidavits stating facts relating to title. The county recorder must make appropriate notations in the county records to reflect the conveyance of the village's interest in real property as provided by the recorded agreements resulting from the dissolution. The notations must include a reference to the county's recorded certificate of dissolution.

In the absence of any agreements and upon the recording of affidavits relating to title, the county recorder must make appropriate notations in the county records to reflect the conveyance of the village's interest in real property and to evidence that title vested by operation of law in the township or townships as otherwise provided by continuing law and as a result of the dissolution. The certificate of dissolution or a certified copy of it, any agreements regarding the transfer of real property, and supporting affidavits are sufficient evidence of a transfer of title from the former village to a township or townships. The act requires that these documents be recorded in the

¹⁷⁴ R.C. 117.10(E), not in the act.



same manner as a deed of conveyance, except that affected townships are exempt from paying any county recording fees.

Cash balances must be transferred at the completion of the Auditor of State's audit or, at the discretion of the Auditor, agreed-upon procedures performed by the Auditor.

Electric, water, and sewer utility property

The act requires that electric, water, and sewer utility property be transferred by agreement between the affected village and the entity or entities that will be taking over the electric, water, and sewer utilities property and assets. Cash balances must be transferred at the completion of the Auditor of State's audit or, at the discretion of the Auditor, agreed-upon procedures performed by the Auditor. The act provides that the provision of utility and other services must remain uninterrupted during the transition period following the dissolution, and that the surrender of a village's corporate powers does not affect the village's power to operate its utilities, including the collection of existing rates and charges for services rendered, until the ownership and operation of the utility is transferred to another entity. Under the act, a dissolving village may incur liability to the extent necessary in connection with the operations of the village's utilities consistent with prudent utility practice; a dissolving village generally may not incur new liabilities under continuing law.

If a county or a regional water and sewer district utility must assume water and sewer utility property and assets by default, the act allows the board of county commissioners or the district's board of trustees to petition a court to order to revise the existing user fees, rates, and charges charged, or assessments levied, by the utility. The board must file with the petition a systems audit, which must address specific items such as the financial solvency of the utility and the necessary system maintenance. The systems audit may not prevent the Auditor from conducting an audit or agreed-upon audit procedures. The court must review the audit in determining whether to grant the order. Any order the court grants must assure the utility's operational viability and financial solvency is maintained, and that acquisition of the utility does not place an unreasonable financial burden on the county or district.

The act also requires a dissolving village to take all "necessary steps" to transfer its contractual and other obligations to a successor entity in a timely manner following the filing of the certificate of dissolution. The village must hire a third-party engineer knowledgeable about the operation of municipal electric systems to conduct a systems audit of the electric utility, which must address specific items such as the financial



solvency of the utility and the necessary system maintenance,¹⁷⁵ the audit must begin not later than 60 days after the certificate of dissolution is filed. The act specifies that the audit is a proper expense of the village's electric utility fund, and requires the absorbing entity to pay for the audit if the dissolving village's electric utility fund has a zero or negative fund balance. Finally, the act requires a dissolving village's electric utility to continue "normal operations and activities," to continue fulfilling the village's contractual and other obligations, including with its customers, users, and licensees of its poles, conduits, and rights-of-way, and to collect charges at rates in effect on the date the certificate of dissolution was filed.

Local annual reports to Auditor of State

(R.C. 340.03 and 705.22)

The act eliminates the requirement for a municipal corporation and a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services to provide a copy of their annual reports to the Auditor of State.

Cybersecurity training for local fiscal officers

(R.C. 321.46, 507.12, and 733.81)

The act adds cybersecurity to the list of subjects to be covered in the education programs conducted by the Auditor of State and the Treasurer of State for persons elected as county treasurers, township fiscal officers, and municipal (city or village) fiscal officers. Under continuing law, the Auditor and the Treasurer must conduct education programs to enhance the background and working knowledge of fiscal officers in areas such as government accounting, budgeting and financing, and financial report preparation.

Metropolitan housing authorities

(R.C. 3735.31, 3735.33, 3735.40, and 3735.41)

Shared service agreements

Metropolitan Housing Authorities (MHAs) are public entities that own and manage property and provide rent subsidies to low-income families. Continuing law tasks MHAs with clearing, planning, and rebuilding blighted areas within their districts

¹⁷⁵ The reference in division (D)(1)(b) to division (D)(2) regarding the items the audit must address should be to division (D)(1)(a).



and providing safe and sanitary housing for low-income families. The act permits two or more MHAs to enter into a shared service agreement to achieve these goals.

Projects to improve blighted areas

The act clarifies that MHA plans to improve blighted areas can include housing as well as other projects; prior law only provided for plans including housing projects. Additionally, MHAs can undertake housing or other projects that include providing land, facilities, and property for commercial and residential purposes, in addition to streets, utilities, parks and recreation, gardening, community, health, educational, welfare, and other purposes.

Tenant eligibility

The act prohibits an MHA from providing a federal rent subsidy to a tenant who does not meet HUD income restrictions. Under prior law, an MHA must deny housing to such a tenant.

Regional councils of governments

(R.C. 167.03)

The act authorizes a regional council of governments to contract to administer and coordinate the self-funded health benefits program of a nonprofit corporation organized under Ohio law if the council (1) is established to provide health care benefits to its officers and employees and their dependents and (2) has an educational service center as its fiscal agent.

Reimbursement to law enforcement agencies

(R.C. 4511.19)

The act authorizes a court to order a person who is convicted of, or pleads guilty to, an operating a vehicle while intoxicated (OVI) offense to reimburse a law enforcement agency for costs associated with administering one or more chemical tests of the person's blood or urine, if the tests indicated that the offender had a prohibited concentration of a controlled substance or a metabolite of a controlled substance in the offender's blood or urine. This is in addition to any penalties, including financial sanctions, that may be imposed by the court under continuing law.



Commissary profits for screening equipment

(R.C. 341.25)

The act allows a sheriff to use profits from the county jail's commissary to purchase technology designed to prevent contraband from entering the jail. Under continuing law unchanged by the act, the sheriff may also use commissary profits to pay commissary employees and to purchase supplies and equipment and to provide life skills training and education or treatment services for the benefit of jail inmates.

Multi-jurisdictional local correctional centers

(R.C. 307.93)

Under continuing law, two or more adjacent counties may jointly establish a multicounty correctional center, and one or more counties and one or more municipal corporations may jointly establish a municipal-county or multicounty-municipal correctional center. The political subdivisions prescribe the manner of funding of, and debt assumption for, the center and the standards and procedures for its operation, and generally form a corrections commission to oversee the center's administration. The standards and procedures must include specified items and may be amended.

Regarding the amendment of the operational standards and procedures, the act specifies that they may be amended by agreement of a majority of the voting members of the center's corrections commission, or by other means specified in the contract between the contracting counties and municipal corporations (instead of by agreement of the parties to the establishing contract upon the commission's advice, as under prior law). The act clarifies that the items required for the standards and procedures are also required for the amendments.

Port authority competitive bid threshold

(R.C. 4582.12 and 4582.31)

The act changes to \$150,000 the threshold amount above which a port authority generally must utilize competitive bidding when contracting for the construction of a building, structure, or other improvement. Under prior law, the threshold was the higher of:

--\$100,000; or

--\$100,000 plus an annual adjusted amount determined by the Director of Commerce based on the average increase for the prior two years in the Producer Price



Index for Material and Supply Inputs for New Nonresidential Construction as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Foreclosure and auctioning changes

(R.C. 2329.211, 2329.271, 2329.31, and 2329.311)

The act makes the following changes relating to real property foreclosure sales.

Sale deposit

The act expressly permits sale deposits to be made by a financial transaction device when property is purchased through an online sale. A *financial transaction device* includes a credit card, debit card, charge card, prepaid or stored value card, automated clearinghouse network credit, debit, or e-check entry, or any other device or method for making an electronic payment or transfer of funds.¹⁷⁶

Purchaser's contact information

The act also makes changes relating to the information the purchaser of the property at the foreclosure sale must provide. Continuing law, modified in part by the act, requires a business entity that purchases residential rental property to provide the name, address, and telephone number of a specified contact person. The act, however, specifies that this requirement applies if the residential property purchased *is intended to be used as residential rental property*. Also, the act adds that, in the case of a limited liability company that purchases the residential rental property, a contact person for the limited liability company can satisfy the contact information requirements, not just a member, manager, or officer, as required under continuing law.

In addition, the act adds that when the property purchased at a foreclosure sale is not residential rental property and the property is purchased by a business organization, the contact information also can be provided by a contact person of the business organization, not just an employee of the organization as required under continuing law.

Lastly, the act expressly exempts a plaintiff or a lien holder who is a party to the foreclosure action from providing the specified contact information to the officer.

Purchaser's statement regarding use of property

The act eliminates the requirement that the purchaser of the property at a foreclosure sale provide a statement indicating whether the purchaser will occupy the

¹⁷⁶ R.C. 301.28, not in the act.



property, and instead requires the purchaser to submit a statement indicating if the purchaser intends to use the property as residential rental property.

Purchaser's payment of balance due

Under prior law, the officer making the sale had to require the purchaser, *including a lienholder*, to pay the balance due on the purchase price within 30 days after the court issued a confirmation of the sale, in which the court formally found that it was satisfied with the legality of the sale. The act removes the express reference to the lienholder.

Urban renewal projects

(R.C. 725.01 and 725.04)

The act adds to the reasons that a municipal corporation can undertake an urban renewal project to include cleanup or remediation of hazardous substances or petroleum. Under continuing law, a municipal corporation can undertake an urban renewal project to eliminate and prevent the development or spread of slums and blight. The act adds contamination by hazardous substances or petroleum to the definition of "blight."

The act allows owners, and subsequent owners, subject to a development agreement, to agree to make a semiannual urban renewal service payment, instead of property taxes, that is higher than the amount that would be generated by the assessed value of the improvements. Under continuing law, all semiannual urban renewal service payments are collected at the same time that real property taxes are collected. The entire amount of these payments must be deposited in an urban renewal debt retirement fund. The act also adds to the definition of "revenues," for purposes of the urban renewal projects laws, to include revenue available to the municipal corporation pursuant to a development agreement.

Municipal planning commissions

(R.C. 713.01)

The act authorizes some "public members," who may be nonresidents, to be appointed to a municipal planning commission, to serve instead of the former requirement for all "citizen members" to be residents of the municipal corporation. For each city having a board of park commissioners that establishes a seven-member planning commission, instead of four resident citizens of the municipal corporation serving, two members may be nonresident public members and two must be citizens of the municipal corporation. For the five-member boards under continuing law, instead



of three citizen members serving under the former requirement, one public member and two citizen members must be appointed. The act specifies that the public members need not be residents of the municipal corporation but they must live in the county in which the municipal corporation is located or in a township adjacent to the county. All members are subject to the prohibition against public officials having an unlawful interest in a public contract.

Noncharter village disbursements

(R.C. 733.44 and 733.46)

The act prohibits the treasurer, clerk-treasurer, or fiscal officer of a noncharter village from disbursing funds unless the order disbursing funds contains at least two signatures, as follows:

(1) If the noncharter village has a treasurer, by order signed by the treasurer and at least one member of the village's legislative authority or the village clerk; or

(2) If the noncharter village has a clerk-treasurer or fiscal officer, by order signed by the clerk-treasurer or fiscal officer and at least one member of the village's legislative authority.

Funds disbursed to municipal treasurers

(R.C. 733.44)

Under continuing law, the treasurer of a municipal corporation must demand and receive from the county treasurer taxes levied and assessments made and certified to the county auditor by the municipality's legislative authority and placed on the tax list for collection, and moneys accruing to and debts due the municipality. The county treasurer must disburse those funds on the order of any person authorized by law or ordinance to issue disbursement orders. The act adds that the county auditor also must disburse funds on the order of any person authorized by law or ordinance to issue disbursement orders.

Investment of county inactive moneys

(R.C. 135.35(A)(8))

The act does both of the following with respect to the investment of a county's inactive moneys and money in the county public library fund:



--Revises the restriction on investments in certain commercial paper notes and bankers acceptances by increasing, from 25% to 40%, the amount of a county's total average portfolio that can be used for those investments;

--Limits the total investment in commercial paper notes of a single issuer to 5% of interim moneys available for investment at the time of purchase.

Storage of firearms in private motor vehicles

(R.C. 2923.1210)

The act creates a civil cause of action against a business entity, property owner, or public or private employer whose policy prohibits a valid concealed handgun licensee from transporting or storing a firearm or ammunition in the person's privately owned motor vehicle in accordance with the law. The court in such a case may grant any injunctive relief it finds appropriate.

Under continuing law unchanged by the act, a business entity, property owner, or public or private employer may not establish, maintain, or enforce a policy or rule that prohibits or has the effect of prohibiting a concealed handgun licensee from transporting or storing a firearm or ammunition in a motor vehicle, if the vehicle is in a location where it is otherwise permitted to be and the firearm or ammunition is either in the motor vehicle while the person is physically present or is locked in the trunk, glove box, or other enclosed compartment or container in or on the vehicle.

