

**As Passed by the Senate**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2017-2018**

**Sub. H. B. No. 124**

**Representatives Brenner, Carfagna**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Hambley, Goodman, Green, Hughes, Ingram,  
Johnson, Rogers, Schaffer, Scherer, Sprague, Strahorn, Sweeney, West**

**Senators Beagle, Burke, Eklund, Hackett, Hoagland, Huffman, LaRose, Terhar,  
Uecker**

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**A BILL**

To enact section 5705.233 of the Revised Code to 1  
allow a county to propose as a single ballot 2  
question property taxes and a bond issue for the 3  
acquisition of, or permanent improvements to, 4  
criminal justice-related facilities and the 5  
operating expenses associated with such 6  
facilities and other criminal justice services, 7  
to authorize a joint vocational school district 8  
to submit the question of a renewal tax levy to 9  
voters who did not have an opportunity to vote 10  
on the levy at an election held in November of 11  
2015 because the levy was only placed on the 12  
ballot in one of several counties in which the 13  
district has territory, and to declare an 14  
emergency. 15

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 5705.233 of the Revised Code be 16

enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 5705.233. (A) As used in this section, "criminal justice facility" means any facility located within the county in which a tax is levied under this section and for which the board of commissioners of such county may make an appropriation under section 307.45 of the Revised Code.

(B) The board of county commissioners of any county, at any time, may declare by resolution that it may be necessary for the county to issue general obligation bonds for permanent improvements to a criminal justice facility, including the acquisition, construction, enlargement, renovation, or maintenance of such a facility. The resolution shall state all of the following:

(1) The necessity and purpose of the bond issue;

(2) The date of the general or special election at which the question shall be submitted to the electors;

(3) The amount, approximate date, estimated rate of interest, and maximum number of years over which the principal of the bonds may be paid;

(4) The necessity of levying a tax outside the ten-mill limitation to pay debt charges on the bonds and any anticipatory securities.

On adoption of the resolution, the board of county commissioners shall certify a copy of it to the county auditor. The county auditor promptly shall estimate and certify to the board the average annual property tax rate required throughout the stated maturity of the bonds to pay debt charges on the bonds, in the same manner as under division (C) of section 133.18 of the Revised Code. Division (B) of section 5705.03 of

the Revised Code does not apply to tax levy proceedings 46  
initiated under this section. 47

(C) After receiving the county auditor's certification 48  
under division (B) of this section, the board of county 49  
commissioners may declare by resolution that the amount of taxes 50  
that can be raised within the ten-mill limitation will be 51  
insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the present and 52  
future criminal justice requirements of the county; that it is 53  
necessary to issue general obligation bonds of the county for 54  
permanent improvements to a criminal justice facility and to 55  
levy an additional tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation to 56  
pay debt charges on the bonds and any anticipatory securities; 57  
that it is necessary for a specified number of years or for a 58  
continuing period of time to levy additional taxes in excess of 59  
the ten-mill limitation to provide funds for the acquisition, 60  
construction, enlargement, renovation, maintenance, and 61  
financing of permanent improvements to such a criminal justice 62  
facility or to pay for operating expenses of the facility and 63  
other criminal justice services for which the board may make an 64  
appropriation under section 307.45 of the Revised Code, or both; 65  
and that the question of the bonds and taxes shall be submitted 66  
to the electors of the county at a general or special election, 67  
which shall not be earlier than ninety days after certification 68  
of the resolution to the board of elections, and the date of 69  
which shall be consistent with section 3501.01 of the Revised 70  
Code. The resolution shall specify all of the following: 71

(1) The county auditor's estimate of the average annual 72  
property tax rate required throughout the stated maturity of the 73  
bonds to pay debt charges on the bonds; 74

(2) The proposed rate of the tax, if any, for operating 75

expenses and criminal justice services, the first year the tax 76  
will be levied, and the number of years it will be levied, or 77  
that it will be levied for a continuing period of time; 78

(3) The proposed rate of the tax, if any, for permanent 79  
improvements to a criminal justice facility, the first year the 80  
tax will be levied, and the number of years it will be levied, 81  
or that it will be levied for a continuing period of time. 82

The resolution shall go into immediate effect upon its 83  
passage, and no publication of it is necessary other than that 84  
provided in the notice of election. The board of county 85  
commissioners shall certify a copy of the resolution, along with 86  
copies of the auditor's estimate and its resolution under 87  
division (B) of this section, to the board of elections 88  
immediately after its adoption. 89

(D) The board of elections shall make the arrangements for 90  
the submission of the question proposed under division (C) of 91  
this section to the electors of the county, and the election 92  
shall be conducted, canvassed, and certified in the same manner 93  
as regular elections in the county for the election of county 94  
officers. The resolution shall be put before the electors as one 95  
ballot question, with a favorable vote indicating approval of 96  
the bond issue, the levy to pay debt charges on the bonds and 97  
any anticipatory securities, the operating expenses and criminal 98  
justice services levy, and the permanent improvements levy, as 99  
those levies may be proposed. The board of elections shall 100  
publish notice of the election in a newspaper of general 101  
circulation in the county once a week for two consecutive weeks, 102  
or as provided in section 7.16 of the Revised Code, before the 103  
election. If a board of elections operates and maintains a web 104  
site, that board also shall post notice of the election on its 105

web site for thirty days before the election. The notice of 106  
election shall state all of the following: 107

(1) The principal amount of the proposed bond issue; 108

(2) The permanent improvements for which the bonds are to 109  
    be issued; 110

(3) The maximum number of years over which the principal 111  
    of the bonds may be paid; 112

(4) The estimated additional average annual property tax 113  
    rate to pay the debt charges on the bonds, as certified by the 114  
    county auditor; 115

(5) The proposed rate of the additional tax, if any, for 116  
    operating expenses and criminal justice services; 117

(6) The number of years the operating expenses or criminal 118  
    justice services tax will be in effect, or that it will be in 119  
    effect for a continuing period of time; 120

(7) The proposed rate of the additional tax, if any, for 121  
    permanent improvements; 122

(8) The number of years the permanent improvements tax 123  
    will be in effect, or that it will be in effect for a continuing 124  
    period of time; 125

(9) The time and place of the election. 126

(E) The form of the ballot for an election under this 127  
    section is as follows: 128

"Shall ..... be authorized to do the following: 129

(1) Issue bonds for the purpose of ..... in the 130  
        principal amount of \$....., to be repaid annually over a 131  
        maximum period of ..... years, and levy a property tax outside 132

the ten-mill limitation, estimated by the county auditor to 133  
average over the bond repayment period ..... mills for each one 134  
dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to ..... (rate expressed 135  
in cents or dollars and cents, such as "36 cents" or "\$1.41") 136  
for each \$100 of tax valuation, to pay the annual debt charges 137  
on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in 138  
anticipation of those bonds?" 139

If either a levy for permanent improvements or a levy for 140  
operating expenses and criminal justice services is proposed, or 141  
both are proposed, the ballot also shall contain the following 142  
language, as appropriate: 143

"(2) Levy an additional property tax to provide funds for 144  
the acquisition, construction, enlargement, renovation, 145  
maintenance, and financing of permanent improvements to a 146  
criminal justice facility at a rate not exceeding ..... mills 147  
for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to ..... 148  
(rate expressed in cents or dollars and cents) for each \$100 of 149  
tax valuation, for ..... (number of years of the levy, or a 150  
continuing period of time)? 151

(3) Levy an additional property tax to pay operating 152  
expenses of a criminal justice facility and provide other 153  
criminal justice services at a rate not exceeding ..... mills 154  
for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to ..... 155  
(rate expressed in cents or dollars and cents) for each \$100 of 156  
tax valuation, for ..... (number of years of the levy, or a 157  
continuing period of time)? 158

FOR THE BOND ISSUE AND LEVY (OR LEVIES) 159

AGAINST THE BOND ISSUE AND LEVY (OR LEVIES) " 160

(F) The board of elections promptly shall certify the 161

results of the election to the tax commissioner and the county 162  
auditor. If a majority of the electors voting on the question 163  
vote for it, the board of county commissioners may proceed with 164  
issuance of the bonds and the levy and collection of the 165  
property tax for the debt service on the bonds and any 166  
anticipatory securities in the same manner and subject to the 167  
same limitations as for securities issued under section 133.18 168  
of the Revised Code, and with the levy and collection of the 169  
property tax or taxes for operating expenses and criminal 170  
justice services and for permanent improvements at the 171  
additional rate or any lesser rate in excess of the ten-mill 172  
limitation. Any securities issued by the board of commissioners 173  
under this section are Chapter 133. securities, as that term is 174  
defined in section 133.01 of the Revised Code. 175

(G) (1) After the approval of a tax for operating expenses 176  
and criminal justice services under this section and before the 177  
time the first collection and distribution from the levy can be 178  
made, the board of county commissioners may anticipate a 179  
fraction of the proceeds of the levy and issue anticipation 180  
notes in a principal amount not exceeding fifty per cent of the 181  
total estimated proceeds of the tax to be collected during the 182  
first year of the levy. 183

(2) After the approval of a tax under this section for 184  
permanent improvements to a criminal justice facility, the board 185  
of county commissioners may anticipate a fraction of the 186  
proceeds of the tax and issue anticipation notes in a principal 187  
amount not exceeding fifty per cent of the total estimated 188  
proceeds of the tax remaining to be collected in each year over 189  
a period of five years after issuance of the notes. 190

Anticipation notes under this section shall be issued as 191

provided in section 133.24 of the Revised Code. Notes issued 192  
under division (G) of this section shall have principal payments 193  
during each year after the year of their issuance over a period 194  
not to exceed five years, and may have a principal payment in 195  
the year of their issuance. 196

(H) A tax for operating expenses and criminal justice 197  
services or for permanent improvements levied under this section 198  
for a specified number of years may be renewed or replaced in 199  
the same manner as a tax for current operating expenses or 200  
permanent improvements levied under section 5705.19 of the 201  
Revised Code. A tax levied under this section for a continuing 202  
period of time may be decreased in accordance with section 203  
5705.261 of the Revised Code. 204

**Section 2.** One or more resolutions adopted by a board of 205  
county commissioners on or after the date this act becomes law 206  
and before the effective date of the enactment by this act of 207  
section 5705.233 of the Revised Code are hereby ratified and 208  
shall be treated as though the resolution or resolutions were 209  
adopted after that date so long as the resolutions otherwise 210  
conform to the requirements of that section. Notwithstanding 211  
division (C) of section 5705.233 of the Revised Code, the board 212  
of elections of such a county shall accept such a resolution and 213  
make arrangements for the submission of the question proposed 214  
therein to the electors of the county at the general election to 215  
be held November 7, 2017, if the resolution is certified by the 216  
board of county commissioners to the board of elections not 217  
later than seven days after the effective date of the enactment 218  
of that section. 219

**Section 3.** (A) This section applies to a joint vocational 220  
school district that meets all of the following criteria: 221



(1) The territory of the district includes all or a 222  
portion of the territory of two or more counties. 223

(2) In 2015, the board of education of the district 224  
proposed to renew one or more existing tax levies that ceased to 225  
be collected in 2016. 226

(3) The question of the renewal levy was placed on the 227  
November 2015 ballot only in the county in which the majority of 228  
the electors of the district reside, and not in any other county 229  
in which district electors reside. 230

(B) The board of education of the joint vocational school 231  
district to which this section applies may adopt a resolution 232  
declaring that the question of the renewal levy described in 233  
division (A) of this section shall be submitted to the district 234  
electors who reside in counties in which the question was not 235  
placed on the ballot in 2015. The question may be placed on the 236  
ballot at a general or special election to be held at a time 237  
specified in the resolution. The resolution shall include, with 238  
respect to that levy, the same purpose, the same rate expressed 239  
in both mills for each dollar and dollars for each one hundred 240  
dollars of valuation, and the same term of years as the 241  
resolution proposing the question of the renewal levy placed on 242  
the November 2015 ballot. 243

The results of the election authorized by this section 244  
shall be added to the results of the election held in November 245  
of 2015. If a majority of all of the electors in the district 246  
voted in favor of the question, the levy shall be considered as 247  
"authorized to be levied" in the district under section 319.301 248  
of the Revised Code, shall be considered a "qualifying levy" 249  
under section 319.302 of the Revised Code, and shall be placed 250  
on the appropriate tax lists of the current year as a renewal 251

levy. The board of elections of the county in which a majority 252  
of the district's electors reside shall certify the results to 253  
the tax commissioner and to the board of education, which shall 254  
forthwith make the necessary levy and certify it to the county 255  
auditor, who shall extend it on the tax list for the current 256  
year. After the first year, the levy shall be included in the 257  
annual tax budget that is certified to the county budget 258  
commission. 259

**Section 4.** This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 260  
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 261  
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is that 262  
the joint vocational school district to which this act applies 263  
must be able to place a levy on the ballot as originally 264  
intended and voted upon in 2015 without facing additional cost 265  
or loss of revenue. Therefore, this act shall go into immediate 266  
effect. 267