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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 309**  
**(1\_136\_0632-1)**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 309's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** In House Ways and Means

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. D. Thomas

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### Highlights

- The bill updates county budget commission procedures and tax budget requirements to enhance oversight and levy adjustments. The fiscal effect is indeterminate.

### Detailed Analysis

The bill revises procedures regarding county budget commissions (CBCs) and local taxing authorities' submission of their tax budgets to CBCs. The bill expands requirements for entities such as health districts and certain other taxing authorities not already submitting their tax budgets to their respective CBC to begin doing so. The bill also requires taxing units to report how they will handle increased property tax revenues from their unvoted levies and to provide more detailed expense projections. In addition, the bill grants CBCs greater authority to reduce property tax levies in certain cases, especially for levies beyond their first-year collection or when the unencumbered balance estimated to remain in a fund at the end of a fiscal year exceeds 30% of the estimated expenses from that fund. The bill places the burden of proof on a taxing unit to show the need for additional revenue when challenging any levy reductions made by the CBC before the Board of Tax Appeals.

The bill provides CBCs greater discretion in reducing political subdivisions' property tax collections when the CBC finds it prudent to avoid certain property tax collections. Any fiscal impact will depend on how each of the 88 county budget commissions exercises this discretionary authority. Because of this uncertainty, LBO is not able to provide a reliable estimate of the magnitude or frequency of any revenue reductions that may result under the bill. Additionally, the bill formalizes submission requirements and expands review authority for CBCs, but these provisions largely reflect existing practices, resulting in only minimal fiscal impact.