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H.B. 137
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Local Government

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Lorenz

Kitty Sorah, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Authorizes a county, municipality, township, or school district to decline to submit a library district levy to voters.
- Authorizes a county to decline to submit a general health district levy to voters.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Library and health district levies

Under continuing law, a local government may generally submit property taxes directly to voters for approval. However, sometimes, the local government that would ultimately benefit from the tax is required to work through another subdivision to submit the tax to voters. This is the case for library district current expense and permanent improvement levies and general health district levies. For library district levies, the library district requests that the county, municipality, township, or school district associated with the library submit the tax to voters. For general health district levies, the district must request that the county submit the tax to voters. In both cases, the other subdivision ultimately serves as the taxing authority for the library or general health district.

Under current law, a taxing authority that receives a levy submission request from a library or general health district is without discretion to disapprove the request. Instead, they serve a ministerial role and are required to submit the levy to voters. The bill grants discretion to these taxing authorities to refuse the request of a library or general health district to submit a tax to voters, beginning with requests made on or after the bill's 90-day effective date.

The bill also clarifies that a library levy is submitted only to the taxing authority of the political subdivision that the library is subject to, even if their boundaries do not align.¹

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-25-25
Reported, H. Local Government	10-29-25

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¹ R.C. 3709.29 and 5705.23; Section 3.