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H.B. 572
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Sobecki

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SUMMARY

- During the state of emergency due to COVID-19, allows the Ohio Public Works Commission, Ohio Water Development Authority, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, county auditors, and county recorders to waive specified fees and other requirements.
- Declares an emergency.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Agency variances because of COVID-19

H.B. 197 (133rd General Assembly) went into effect on March 27, 2020. The act, in part, allowed for variances from agency fees and requirements during the state of emergency declared as a result of COVID-19 (see Executive Order 2020-01D). However, the act's provisions expired on December 1, 2020.¹

The bill reinstates the following variances enacted in H.B. 197 that do the following:

1. Ohio Public Works Commission – automatically extends project schedules and waives penalties and late fees owed to it from outstanding loans. (The Commission cannot extend a schedule for a project if federal law does not allow the extension.)
2. Ohio Water Development Authority – waives penalties and late fees owed to it from outstanding loans; and

¹ See <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA133-HB-197> (Section 27).

3. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency – waives penalties or late fees owed to it from outstanding loans or permits, and suspends reporting requirements for water research recovery facilities or solid waste facilities.

The bill also adds that county auditors and county recorders may waive any electronic filing or recording fees.² The bill's provisions are effective during the state of emergency period declared by Executive Order 2020-01D and do not have a definitive expiration date.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-23-20

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² Section 1.