As Reported by the House Local and Municipal Government and Urban Revitalization Committee

126th General Assembly Regular Session 2005-2006

Sub. H. B. No. 385

Representatives Brinkman, Seitz, Law, Schaffer, Webster, Wolpert, Domenick, Fende, Chandler, Daniels, McGregor, J., Combs

A BILL

To amend sections 148.04, 148.06, 305.11, 504.11, 1 505.375, 505.391, 505.94, 515.01, and 5705.10 and to enact section 504.021 of the Revised Code to 3 make changes in various laws pertaining to 4 townships, to permit written distribution of 5 records, in lieu of reading the previous 6 proceedings' record, at a session of the board of 7 county commissioners, and to permit townships and 8 municipal corporations to directly form fire and 9 ambulance districts. 10

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

Section 1. That sections 148.04, 148.06, 305.11, 504.11,	11
505.375, 505.391, 505.94, 515.01, and 5705.10 be amended and	12
section 504.021 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	13
Sec. 148.04. (A) The Ohio public employees deferred	14
compensation board shall initiate, plan, expedite, and, subject to	15
an appropriate assurance of the approval of the internal revenue	16
service, promulgate and offer to all eligible employees, and	17
thereafter administer on behalf of all participating employees and	18

continuing members, and alter as required, a program for deferral of compensation, including a reasonable number of options to the employee for the investment of deferred funds, including life insurance, annuities, variable annuities, pooled investment funds managed by the board, or other forms of investment approved by the board, always in such form as will assure the desired tax treatment of such funds. The members of the Ohio public employees deferred compensation board are the trustees of any deferred funds and shall discharge their duties with respect to the funds solely in the interest of and for the exclusive benefit of participating employees, continuing members, and their beneficiaries. With respect to such deferred funds, section 148.09 of the Revised Code shall apply to claims against participating employees or continuing members and their employers.

- (B) Every employer of an eligible employee shall contract

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 with such the employee upon the employee's application for

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 participation in a deferred compensation program offered by the

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 board. Every retirement system serving an eligible employee shall

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 serve as collection agent for compensation deferred by any of its

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 members and account for and deliver such sums to the board.

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- (C) The board shall, subject to any applicable contract

 provisions, undertake to obtain as favorable conditions of tax

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 treatment as possible, both in the initial programs and any

 permitted alterations thereof of them or additions thereto to

 them, as to such matters as terms of distribution, designation of

 beneficiaries, withdrawal upon disability, financial hardship, or

 termination of public employment, and other optional provisions.

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- (D) In no event shall the total of the amount of deferred 46 compensation to be set aside under a deferred compensation program 47 and the employee's nondeferred income for any year exceed the 48 total annual salary or compensation under the existing salary 49 schedule or classification plan applicable to such the employee in 50

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such that year.

Such a deferred compensation program shall be in addition to 52 any retirement or any other benefit program provided by law for 53 employees of this state. The board shall adopt rules pursuant to 54 Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to provide any necessary 55 standards or conditions for the administration of its programs, 56 including any limits on the portion of a participating employee's 57 compensation that may be deferred in order to avoid adverse 58 treatment of the program by the internal revenue service or the 59 occurrence of deferral, withholding, or other deductions in excess 60 of the compensation available for any pay period. 61

Any income deferred under such a plan shall continue to be
included as regular compensation for the purpose of computing the
contributions to and benefits from the retirement system of such
employee. Any sum so deferred shall not be included in the
computation of any federal and state income taxes withheld on
behalf of any such employee.

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(E) This section does not limit the authority of any 68 municipal corporation, county, township, park district, 69 conservancy district, sanitary district, health district, public 70 library, county law library, public institution of higher 71 education, or school district to provide separate authorized plans 72 or programs for deferring compensation of their officers and 73 employees in addition to the program for the deferral of 74 compensation offered by the board. Any municipal corporation, 75 township, public institution of higher education, or school 76 77 district that offers such plans or programs shall include a reasonable number of options to its officers or employees for the 78 investment of the deferred funds, including annuities, variable 79 annuities, regulated investment trusts, or other forms of 80 investment approved by the municipal corporation, township, public 81 institution of higher education, or school district, that will 82

Sec. 148.06. As used in this section:

(A) "Government unit" means a county, township, park district 85 of any kind, conservancy district, sanitary district, health 86 district, public library district, or county law library. 87

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(B) "Governing board" means, in the case of the county, the 88 board of county commissioners; in the case of a township, the 89 board of township trustees; in the case of a park district, the 90 board of park commissioners; in the case of a conservancy 91 district, the district's board of directors; in the case of a 92 sanitary district, the district's board of directors; in the case 93 of a health district, the board of health; in the case of a public 94 library district, the board of library trustees; and in the case 95 of a county law library, the board of trustees of the law library 96 association. 97

In addition to the program of deferred compensation that may 98 be offered under this chapter, a governing board may offer to all 99 of the officers and employees of the government unit not to exceed 100 two additional programs for deferral of compensation designed for 101 favorable tax treatment of the compensation so deferred. Any such 102 program shall include a reasonable number of options to the 103 officer or employee for the investment of the deferred funds, 104 including annuities, variable annuities, regulated investment 105 trusts, or other forms of investment approved by the governing 106 board, that will assure the desired tax treatment of the funds. 107

Any income deferred under such a plan shall continue to be included as regular compensation for the purpose of computing the contributions to and benefits from the officer's or employee's retirement system but shall not be included in the computation of any federal and state income taxes withheld on behalf of any such employee.

Sec. 305.11. Immediately upon the opening of each day's 114 session of the board of county commissioners, the records of the 115 proceedings of the session of the previous day shall be read, or 116 provided to each commissioner in written form, by the clerk of the 117 board, and, if correct, approved and signed by the commissioners. 118 When the board is not in session, the record of proceedings shall 119 be kept in the county auditor's office or, if the county has a 120 full-time clerk, in the county commissioners' office, open at all 121 proper times to public inspection. It shall be certified by the 122 president and clerk of the board, and shall be received as 123 evidence in every court in the state. 124

Sec. 504.021. As used in this chapter, except for its use in

sections 504.01 and 504.02 of the Revised Code, a "board of township trustees" means only a board of township trustees of a township that adopts a limited home rule government under this chapter. 129

Sec. 504.11. (A) The vote on the question of passage of a 130 resolution provided for in section 504.10 of the Revised Code or a 131 motion related to that resolution shall be taken by yeas and nays 132 and entered on the journal, and the resolution or motion shall not 133 be passed without concurrence of a majority of all members of the 134 board of township trustees, except that each emergency resolution 135 under that section shall require the affirmative vote of all of 136 the members of the board for its enactment. If an emergency 137 resolution fails to receive the required vote for passage as an 138 emergency measure but receives the necessary majority for passage 139 as a nonemergency resolution, it shall be considered passed as a 140 nonemergency resolution. Except as otherwise provided in division 141 (B) of this section, a resolution shall become effective thirty 142 days after it is filed with the township fiscal officer. Each 143

Sub. H. B. No. 385 As Reported by the House Local and Municipal Government and Urban Revitalization Committee	Page 6
emergency resolution shall determine that the resolution is	144
necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace,	145
health, safety, or welfare and shall contain a statement of the	146
necessity for the emergency. Each resolution shall be	147
authenticated by the signature of the township fiscal officer, but	148
the failure or refusal of the fiscal officer to sign a resolution	149
shall not invalidate an otherwise properly enacted resolution.	150
(B) Each resolution appropriating money, submitting a	151
question to the electorate, determining to proceed with an	152
election, or providing for the approval of a revision,	153
codification, recodification, or rearrangement of resolutions, or	154
publication of resolutions in book form, and any emergency	155
resolution, shall take effect, unless a later time is specified in	156
the resolution, ten days after it is filed with the township	157
fiscal officer. Emergency resolutions shall take effect	158
<pre>immediately.</pre>	159
(C) Each resolution shall be recorded in a book, or other	160
record prescribed by the board, established and maintained for	161
that purpose. The township fiscal officer or a duly authorized	162
deputy to the fiscal officer shall, upon the request of any person	163
and upon the payment of a fee established by the board, certify	164
true copies of any resolution, and these certified copies shall be	165
admissible as evidence in any court.	166
(D) The procedures provided in this section apply only to	167
resolutions adopted pursuant to a township's limited home rule	168
powers as authorized by this chapter.	169
Sec. 505.375. (A) The (1)(a) The boards of township trustees	170
of one or more townships and the legislative authorities of one or	171
more municipal corporations, or the legislative authorities of two	172
or more municipal corporations, or the boards of township trustees	173
of two or more townships, may negotiate an agreement to form a	174

(b) On that date, the joint fire district and the joint

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Sub. H. B. No. 385 Page 8 As Reported by the House Local and Municipal Government and Urban **Revitalization Committee** ambulance district shall cease to exist, and the power of each to 206 levy a tax upon taxable property shall terminate, except that any 207 levy of a tax for the payment of indebtedness within the territory 208 of the joint fire or joint ambulance district as it was composed 209 at the time the indebtedness was incurred shall continue to be 210 collected by the successor fire and ambulance district if the 211 indebtedness remains unpaid. All 212 All funds and other property of the joint districts that 213 combined into the fire and ambulance district shall become the 214 property of the fire and ambulance district, unless otherwise 215 provided in the negotiated agreement. The agreement shall provide 216 for the settlement of all debts and obligations of the joint 217 districts. 218 (B)(1) The governing body of the a fire and ambulance 219 district created under division (A)(1) or (2) of this section 220 shall be a board of trustees of at least three but no more than 221 nine members, appointed as provided in the agreement creating the 222 district. Members of the board of trustees may be compensated at a 223 rate not to exceed thirty dollars per meeting for not more than 224 fifteen meetings per year, and may be reimbursed for all necessary 225 expenses incurred, as provided in the agreement creating the 226 district. 227 (2) The board shall employ a clerk and other employees as it 228 considers best, including a fire chief or fire prevention 229 officers, and shall fix their compensation. Neither this section 230 nor any other section of the Revised Code requires, or shall be 231 construed to require, that the fire chief of a fire and ambulance 232 district be a resident of the district. 233 Before entering upon the duties of office, the clerk shall 234 execute a bond, in the amount and with surety to be approved by 235 the board, payable to the state, conditioned for the faithful 236 performance of all of the clerk's official duties. The clerk shall 237

deposit the bond with the presiding officer of the board, who

shall file a copy of it, certified by the presiding officer, with

the county auditor of the county containing the most territory in

the district.

The board <u>also</u> shall also provide for the appointment of a 242 fiscal officer for the district. The board and may also enter into 243 agreements with volunteer fire companies for the use and operation 244 of fire-fighting equipment. Volunteer firefighters acting under 245 such an agreement are subject to the requirements for volunteer 246 firefighters set forth in division (A) of section 505.38 of the 247 Revised Code.

(3) Employees of the district shall not be removed from 249 office except as provided by sections 733.35 to 733.39 of the 250 Revised Code, except that, to initiate removal proceedings, the 251 board shall designate a private citizen or, if the employee is 252 employed as a firefighter, the board may designate the fire chief, 253 to investigate, conduct the proceedings, and prepare the necessary 254 charges in conformity with those sections 733.35 to 733.39 of the 255 Revised Code, and except that the board shall perform the 256 functions and duties specified for the municipal legislative 257 authority under those sections. The board may pay reasonable 258 compensation to any private citizen hired for services rendered in 259 the matter. 260

(4) No person shall be appointed as a permanent full-time 261 paid member of the district whose duties include fire fighting, or 262 be appointed as a volunteer firefighter, unless that person has 263 received a certificate issued under former section 3303.07 or 264 section 4765.55 of the Revised Code evidencing satisfactory 265 completion of a firefighter training program. The board may send 266 its officers and firefighters to schools of instruction designed 267 to promote the efficiency of firefighters and, if authorized in 268 advance, may pay their necessary expenses from the funds used for 269

Sub. H. B. No. 385 Page 10 As Reported by the House Local and Municipal Government and Urban **Revitalization Committee** the maintenance and operation of the district. 270 The board may choose, by adoption of an appropriate 271 resolution, to have the Ohio medical transportation board license 272 any emergency medical service organization it operates. If the 273 board adopts such a resolution, Chapter 4766. of the Revised Code, 274 except for sections 4766.06 and 4766.99 of the Revised Code, 275 applies to the organization. All rules adopted under the 276 applicable sections of that chapter also apply to the 277 organization. The board may likewise remove, by resolution, remove 278 its emergency medical service organization from the jurisdiction 279 of the Ohio medical transportation board. 280 (C) The board of trustees of a fire and ambulance district 281 created under division (A)(1) or (2) of this section may exercise 282 the following powers: 283 284 (1) Purchase or otherwise provide any fire apparatus, mechanical resuscitators, or other fire or ambulance equipment, 285 appliances, or materials; fire hydrants; and water supply for 286 fire fighting firefighting purposes that seems advisable to the 287 board; 288 (2) Provide for the care and maintenance of equipment and, 289 for that purpose, purchase, lease, lease with an option to 290 purchase, or construct and maintain necessary buildings; 291 (3) Establish and maintain lines of fire-alarm communications 292 within the limits of the district; 293 (4) Appropriate land for a fire station or medical emergency 294 unit needed in order to respond in reasonable time to a fire or 295 medical emergency, in accordance with Chapter 163. of the Revised 296 Code; 297 (5) Purchase, appropriate, or accept a deed or gift of land 298 to enlarge or improve a fire station or medical emergency unit; 299

Revitalization Committee	
(6) Purchase, lease, lease with an option to purchase,	300
maintain, and use all materials, equipment, vehicles, buildings,	301
and land necessary to perform its duties;	302
(7) Contract for a period not to exceed three years with one	303
or more townships, municipal corporations, counties, joint fire	304
districts, joint ambulance districts, governmental agencies,	305
nonprofit corporations, or private ambulance owners located either	306
within or outside the state, to furnish or receive ambulance	307
services or emergency medical services within the several	308
territories of the contracting parties, if the contract is first	309
authorized by all boards of trustees and legislative authorities	310
concerned;	311
(8) Establish reasonable charges for the use of ambulance or	312
emergency medical services under the same conditions under which a	313
board of fire district trustees may establish those charges under	314
section 505.371 of the Revised Code;	315
(9) Establish all necessary rules to guard against the	316
occurrence of fires and to protect property and lives against	317
damage and accidents;	318
(10) Adopt a standard code pertaining to fire, fire hazards,	319
and fire prevention prepared and promulgated by the state or by a	320
public or private organization that publishes a model or standard	321
code;	322
(11) Provide for charges for false alarms at commercial	323
establishments in the same manner as joint fire districts are	324
authorized to do under section 505.391 of the Revised Code;	325
(12) Issue bonds and other evidences of indebtedness, subject	326
to Chapter 133. of the Revised Code, but only after approval by a	327
vote of the electors of the district as provided by section 133.18	328
of the Revised Code;	329

(13) To provide the services and equipment it considers	330
necessary, levy a sufficient tax, subject to Chapter 5705. of the	331
Revised Code, on all the taxable property in the district.	332

Page 12

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(D) Any municipal corporation or township may join an 333 existing fire and ambulance district, whether created under 334 division (A)(1) or (2) of this section, by its legislative 335 authority's adoption of a resolution requesting the membership and 336 upon approval of the board of trustees of the district. Any 337 municipal corporation or township may withdraw from a district, 338 whether created under division (A)(1) or (2) of this section, by 339 its legislative authority's adoption of a resolution ordering 340 withdrawal. Upon its withdrawal, the municipal corporation or 341 township ceases to be a part of the district, and the district's 342 power to levy a tax on taxable property in the withdrawing 343 township or municipal corporation terminates, except that the 344 district shall continue to levy and collect taxes for the payment 345 of indebtedness within the territory of the district as it was 346 composed at the time the indebtedness was incurred. 347

Upon the withdrawal of any township or municipal corporation 348 from a district, the county auditor of the county containing the 349 most territory in the district shall ascertain, apportion, and 350 order a division of the funds on hand, including funds in the 351 ambulance and emergency medical services fund, moneys and taxes in 352 the process of collection, except for taxes levied for the payment 353 of indebtedness, credits, and real and personal property on the 354 basis of the valuation of the respective tax duplicates of the 355 withdrawing municipal corporation or township and the remaining 356 territory of the district. 357

- (E) As used in this section:
- (1) "Governmental agency" includes all departments, boards,offices, commissions, agencies, colleges, universities,360

Sub. H. B. No. 385 As Reported by the House Local and Municipal Government and Urban Revitalization Committee	Page 13
institutions, and other instrumentalities of this or another	361
state.	362
(2) "Emergency medical service organization" has the same	363
meaning as in section 4766.01 of the Revised Code.	364
Sec. 505.391. (A) If, after the fire department of a	365
township, township fire district, or joint fire district, or a	366
private fire company with which the fire department of a township,	367
township fire district, or joint fire district contracts for fire	368
protection, responds to a false alarm from an automatic fire alarm	369
system at a commercial establishment or residential building, the	370
board of township trustees gives written notice by certified mail	371
that it may assess a charge of up to three hundred dollars for	372
each subsequent false alarm within a period of thirty days	373
occurring after any three false alarm alarms by that system within	374
the same calendar year, the board of township trustees may assess	375
that charge. This notice shall be mailed to the owner and the	376
lessee, if any, of the building in which the system is installed.	377
After the board gives this notice, the board need not give any	378
additional written notices before assessing a charge for a false	379
alarm as provided by this section. If not paid within sixty days	380
after the owner or lessee receives a written notice by certified	381
mail that a charge has been assessed, the charge shall be entered	382
upon the real property tax list and tax duplicate, shall be a lien	383
upon the property served, and shall be collected as other taxes.	384
Charges collected under this section shall be returned to the	385
township general fund.	386
As (B) If payment of the bill assessing a charge for a false	387
alarm is not received within thirty days, the township fiscal	388
officer shall send a notice by certified mail to the manager and	389
to the owner, if different, of the real estate of which the	390
commercial establishment is a part, or to the occupant, lessee,	391

Sub. H. B. No. 385
As Reported by the House Local and Municipal Government and Urban
Revitalization Committee

agent, or tenant and to the owner, if different, of the real 392 estate of which the residential building is a part, indicating 393 that failure to pay the bill within thirty days, or to show just 394 cause why the bill should not be paid within thirty days, will 395 result in the assessment of a lien upon the real estate in the 396 amount of the bill. If payment is not received or just cause for 397 nonpayment is not shown within those thirty days, the amount of 398 the bill shall be entered upon the tax duplicate, shall be a lien 399 upon the real estate from the date of the entry, and shall be 400 collected as other taxes and returned to the township treasury to 401 be earmarked for use for fire services. 402

Page 14

(C) As used in this section, "commercial establishment" means a building or buildings in an area used primarily for 404 nonresidential, commercial purposes. 405

Sec. 505.94. (A) A board of township trustees may, by 406 resolution, require the registration of all transient vendors 407 within the unincorporated territory of the township and may 408 regulate the time, place, and manner in which these vendors may 409 sell, offer for sale, or solicit orders for future delivery of 410 goods, or the board may, by resolution, prohibit these activities 411 within that territory. If the board requires the registration of 412 all transient vendors, it may establish a reasonable registration 413 fee, not to exceed seventy five one hundred fifty dollars for a 414 registration period, and this registration shall be valid for a 415 period of at least ninety days after the date of registration. Any 416 board of township trustees that provides for the registration and 417 regulation, or prohibition, of transient vendors under this 418 section shall notify the prosecuting attorney of the county in 419 which the township is located of its registration and regulatory 420 requirements or prohibition. No transient vendor shall fail to 421 register or to comply with regulations or prohibitions established 422 by a board of township trustees under this division. 423 Sub. H. B. No. 385
As Reported by the House Local and Municipal Government and Urban
Revitalization Committee

This division does not authorize a board of township trustees

to apply a resolution it adopts under this division to any person

invited by an owner or tenant to visit the owner's or tenant's

premises to sell, offer for sale, or solicit orders for future

delivery of goods.

(B) As used in this section:

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Page 15

- (1) "Goods" means goods, wares, services, merchandise,
 periodicals, and other articles or publications.
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- (2) "Transient vendor" means any person who opens a temporary 432 place of business for the sale of goods or who, on the streets or 433 while traveling about the township, either sells or offers for 434 sale goods, or solicits orders for future delivery of goods where 435 payment is required prior to the delivery of the goods. "Transient 436 vendor" does not include any person who represents any entity 437 exempted from taxation under section 5709.04 of the Revised Code, 438 that notifies the board of township trustees that its 439 440 representatives are present in the township for the purpose of either selling or offering for sale goods, or soliciting orders 441 for future delivery of goods, and does not include a person 442 licensed under Chapter 4707. of the Revised Code. 443
- Sec. 515.01. The board of township trustees may provide 444 artificial lights for any road, highway, public place, or building 445 under its supervision or control, or for any territory within the 446 township and outside the boundaries of any municipal corporation, 447 when the board determines that the public safety or welfare 448 requires that the road, highway, public place, building, or 449 territory shall be lighted. The lighting may be procured either by 450 the township installing a lighting system or by contracting with 451 any person or corporation to furnish lights. 452

If lights are furnished under contract, the contract may 453

Sub. H. B. No. 385 Page 16 As Reported by the House Local and Municipal Government and Urban **Revitalization Committee** 454 provide that the equipment employed may be owned by the township 455 or by the person or corporation supplying it the lights. If the board determines to procure lighting by contract and 456 the total estimated cost of the contract exceeds twenty-five 457 thousand dollars, the board shall prepare plans and specifications 458 for the lighting equipment and shall, for two weeks, advertise for 459 bids for furnishing the lighting equipment, either by posting the 460 advertisement in three conspicuous places in the township or by 461 publication of the advertisement once a week, for two consecutive 462 weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the township. Any 463 such contract for lighting shall be made with the lowest and best 464 bidder. 465 No lighting contract awarded by the board shall be made to 466 cover a period of more than ten twenty years. The cost of 467 installing and operating any lighting system or any light 468 furnished under contract shall be paid from the general fund of 469 the township treasury. 470 Sec. 5705.10. (A) All revenue derived from the general levy 471 for current expense within the ten-mill limitation, from any 472 general levy for current expense authorized by vote in excess of 473 the ten-mill limitation, and from sources other than the general 474 property tax, unless its use for a particular purpose is 475 prescribed by law, shall be paid into the general fund. 476 (B) All revenue derived from general or special levies for 477 debt charges, whether within or in excess of the ten-mill 478 limitation, which is levied for the debt charges on serial bonds, 479 notes, or certificates of indebtedness having a life less than 480 five years, shall be paid into the bond retirement fund; and all 481 such revenue which is levied for the debt charges on all other 482 bonds, notes, or certificates of indebtedness shall be paid into 483 the sinking fund. 484

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to a special fund for the purpose for which the levy was made. 486 (D) Except as otherwise provided by resolution adopted 487 pursuant to section 3315.01 of the Revised Code, all revenue 488 derived from a source other than the general property tax and 489 which the law prescribes shall be used for a particular purpose, 490 shall be paid into a special fund for such purpose. Except as 491 otherwise provided by resolution adopted pursuant to section 492 3315.01 of the Revised Code or as otherwise provided by section 493

(C) All revenue derived from a special levy shall be credited

other than the general property tax, for which the law does not 495 prescribe use for a particular purpose, including interest earned

on the principal of any special fund, regardless of the source or 497

purpose of the principal, shall be paid into the general fund.

3315.40 of the Revised Code, all revenue derived from a source

(E) All proceeds from the sale of public obligations or 499 fractionalized interests in public obligations as defined in 500 section 133.01 of the Revised Code, except premium and accrued 501 interest, shall be paid into a special fund for the purpose of 502 such issue, and any interest and other income earned on money in 503 such special fund may be used for the purposes for which the 504 indebtedness was authorized or may be credited to the general fund 505 or other fund or account as the taxing authority authorizes and 506 used for the purposes of that fund or account. The premium and 507 accrued interest received from such sale shall be paid into the 508 sinking fund or the bond retirement fund of the subdivision. 509

(F) Except as provided in division (G) of this section, if 510 a permanent improvement of the subdivision is sold, the amount 511 received from the sale shall be paid into the sinking fund, the 512 bond retirement fund, or into a special fund for the construction 513 or acquisition of permanent improvements; provided that the 514 proceeds from the sale of a public utility shall be paid into the 515 sinking fund or bond retirement fund to the extent necessary to 516

Sub. H. B. No. 385 As Reported by the House Local and Municipal Government and Urban Revitalization Committee	Page 18
provide for the retirement of the outstanding indebtedness	517
incurred in the construction or acquisition of such utility.	518
Proceeds from the sale of property other than a permanent	519
improvement shall be paid into the fund from which such property	520
was acquired or is maintained, or, if there is no such fund, into	521
the general fund.	522
(G) A township that has a population greater than fifteen	523
thousand according to the most recent federal decennial census and	524
that has declared one or more improvements in the township to be a	525
public purpose under section 5709.73 of the Revised Code may pay	526
proceeds from the sale of a permanent improvement of the township	527
into its general fund if both of the following conditions are	528
<pre>satisfied:</pre>	529
(1) The township fiscal officer determines that all	530
foreseeable public infrastructure improvements, as defined in	531
section 5709.40 of the Revised Code, to be made in the township in	532
the ten years immediately following the date the permanent	533
improvement is sold will have been financed through resolutions	534
adopted under section 5709.73 of the Revised Code on or before the	535
date of the sale. The fiscal officer shall provide written	536
certification of this determination for the township's records.	537
(2) The permanent improvement being sold was financed	538
entirely from moneys in the township's general fund.	539
(H) Money paid into any fund shall be used only for the	540
purposes for which such fund is established.	541
Section 2. That existing sections 148.04, 148.06, 305.11,	542
504.11, 505.375, 505.391, 505.94, 515.01, and 5705.10 of the	543
Revised Code are hereby repealed.	544