

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

**127th General Assembly
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H. B. No. 385

Representative Hottinger

**Cosponsors: Representatives Evans, Wagoner, Flowers, Stebelton,
Chandler, Mallory, McGregor, J., Yuko**

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A BILL

To amend section 5705.19 of the Revised Code to 1
permit land acquired by a board of township 2
trustees for the purpose of protecting or 3
preserving "greenspace" to be used for 4
recreational purposes. 5

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

Section 1. That section 5705.19 of the Revised Code be 6
amended to read as follows: 7

Sec. 5705.19. This section does not apply to school districts 8
or county school financing districts. 9

The taxing authority of any subdivision at any time and in 10
any year, by vote of two-thirds of all the members of the taxing 11
authority, may declare by resolution and certify the resolution to 12
the board of elections not less than seventy-five days before the 13
election upon which it will be voted that the amount of taxes that 14
may be raised within the ten-mill limitation will be insufficient 15
to provide for the necessary requirements of the subdivision and 16
that it is necessary to levy a tax in excess of that limitation 17

for any of the following purposes: 18

(A) For current expenses of the subdivision, except that the 19
total levy for current expenses of a detention facility district 20
or district organized under section 2151.65 of the Revised Code 21
shall not exceed two mills and that the total levy for current 22
expenses of a combined district organized under sections 2151.65 23
and 2152.41 of the Revised Code shall not exceed four mills; 24

(B) For the payment of debt charges on certain described 25
bonds, notes, or certificates of indebtedness of the subdivision 26
issued subsequent to January 1, 1925; 27

(C) For the debt charges on all bonds, notes, and 28
certificates of indebtedness issued and authorized to be issued 29
prior to January 1, 1925; 30

(D) For a public library of, or supported by, the subdivision 31
under whatever law organized or authorized to be supported; 32

(E) For a municipal university, not to exceed two mills over 33
the limitation of one mill prescribed in section 3349.13 of the 34
Revised Code; 35

(F) For the construction or acquisition of any specific 36
permanent improvement or class of improvements that the taxing 37
authority of the subdivision may include in a single bond issue; 38

(G) For the general construction, reconstruction, 39
resurfacing, and repair of streets, roads, and bridges in 40
municipal corporations, counties, or townships; 41

(H) For parks and recreational purposes; 42

(I) For the purpose of providing and maintaining fire 43
apparatus, appliances, buildings, or sites therefor, or sources of 44
water supply and materials therefor, or the establishment and 45
maintenance of lines of fire alarm telegraph, or the payment of 46
permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighters or firefighting 47

companies to operate the same, including the payment of the 48
firefighter employers' contribution required under section 742.34 49
of the Revised Code, or the purchase of ambulance equipment, or 50
the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical 51
services operated by a fire department or firefighting company; 52

(J) For the purpose of providing and maintaining motor 53
vehicles, communications, other equipment, buildings, and sites 54
for such buildings used directly in the operation of a police 55
department, or the payment of salaries of permanent police 56
personnel, including the payment of the police officer employers' 57
contribution required under section 742.33 of the Revised Code, or 58
the payment of the costs incurred by townships as a result of 59
contracts made with other political subdivisions in order to 60
obtain police protection, or the provision of ambulance or 61
emergency medical services operated by a police department; 62

(K) For the maintenance and operation of a county home or 63
detention facility; 64

(L) For community mental retardation and developmental 65
disabilities programs and services pursuant to Chapter 5126. of 66
the Revised Code, except that the procedure for such levies shall 67
be as provided in section 5705.222 of the Revised Code; 68

(M) For regional planning; 69

(N) For a county's share of the cost of maintaining and 70
operating schools, district detention facilities, forestry camps, 71
or other facilities, or any combination thereof, established under 72
section 2151.65 or 2152.41 of the Revised Code or both of those 73
sections; 74

(O) For providing for flood defense, providing and 75
maintaining a flood wall or pumps, and other purposes to prevent 76
floods; 77

(P) For maintaining and operating sewage disposal plants and 78

facilities;	79
(Q) For the purpose of purchasing, acquiring, constructing,	80
enlarging, improving, equipping, repairing, maintaining, or	81
operating, or any combination of the foregoing, a county transit	82
system pursuant to sections 306.01 to 306.13 of the Revised Code,	83
or of making any payment to a board of county commissioners	84
operating a transit system or a county transit board pursuant to	85
section 306.06 of the Revised Code;	86
(R) For the subdivision's share of the cost of acquiring or	87
constructing any schools, forestry camps, detention facilities, or	88
other facilities, or any combination thereof, under section	89
2151.65 or 2152.41 of the Revised Code or both of those sections;	90
(S) For the prevention, control, and abatement of air	91
pollution;	92
(T) For maintaining and operating cemeteries;	93
(U) For providing ambulance service, emergency medical	94
service, or both;	95
(V) For providing for the collection and disposal of garbage	96
or refuse, including yard waste;	97
(W) For the payment of the police officer employers'	98
contribution or the firefighter employers' contribution required	99
under sections 742.33 and 742.34 of the Revised Code;	100
(X) For the construction and maintenance of a drainage	101
improvement pursuant to section 6131.52 of the Revised Code;	102
(Y) For providing or maintaining senior citizens services or	103
facilities as authorized by section 307.694, 307.85, 505.70, or	104
505.706 or division (EE) of section 717.01 of the Revised Code;	105
(Z) For the provision and maintenance of zoological park	106
services and facilities as authorized under section 307.76 of the	107
Revised Code;	108

(AA) For the maintenance and operation of a free public	109
museum of art, science, or history;	110
(BB) For the establishment and operation of a 9-1-1 system,	111
as defined in section 4931.40 of the Revised Code;	112
(CC) For the purpose of acquiring, rehabilitating, or	113
developing rail property or rail service. As used in this	114
division, "rail property" and "rail service" have the same	115
meanings as in section 4981.01 of the Revised Code. This division	116
applies only to a county, township, or municipal corporation.	117
(DD) For the purpose of acquiring property for, constructing,	118
operating, and maintaining community centers as provided for in	119
section 755.16 of the Revised Code;	120
(EE) For the creation and operation of an office or joint	121
office of economic development, for any economic development	122
purpose of the office, and to otherwise provide for the	123
establishment and operation of a program of economic development	124
pursuant to sections 307.07 and 307.64 of the Revised Code;	125
(FF) For the purpose of acquiring, establishing,	126
constructing, improving, equipping, maintaining, or operating, or	127
any combination of the foregoing, a township airport, landing	128
field, or other air navigation facility pursuant to section 505.15	129
of the Revised Code;	130
(GG) For the payment of costs incurred by a township as a	131
result of a contract made with a county pursuant to section	132
505.263 of the Revised Code in order to pay all or any part of the	133
cost of constructing, maintaining, repairing, or operating a water	134
supply improvement;	135
(HH) For a board of township trustees to acquire, other than	136
by appropriation, an ownership interest in land, water, or	137
wetlands, or to restore or maintain land, water, or wetlands in	138
which the board has an ownership interest, not for purposes of	139

recreation, but for the purposes of protecting and preserving the 140
natural, scenic, open, or wooded condition of the land, water, or 141
wetlands against modification or encroachment resulting from 142
occupation, development, or other use, which may be styled as 143
protecting or preserving "greenspace" in the resolution, notice of 144
election, or ballot form~~+~~. Land is not acquired for purposes of 145
recreation, even if the land is used for recreational purposes, so 146
long as no building, structure, or fixture used for recreational 147
purposes is permanently attached or affixed to the land. 148

(II) For the support by a county of a crime victim assistance 149
program that is provided and maintained by a county agency or a 150
private, nonprofit corporation or association under section 307.62 151
of the Revised Code; 152

(JJ) For any or all of the purposes set forth in divisions 153
(I) and (J) of this section. This division applies only to a 154
township. 155

(KK) For a countywide public safety communications system 156
under section 307.63 of the Revised Code. This division applies 157
only to counties. 158

(LL) For the support by a county of criminal justice services 159
under section 307.45 of the Revised Code; 160

(MM) For the purpose of maintaining and operating a jail or 161
other detention facility as defined in section 2921.01 of the 162
Revised Code; 163

(NN) For purchasing, maintaining, or improving, or any 164
combination of the foregoing, real estate on which to hold 165
agricultural fairs. This division applies only to a county. 166

(OO) For constructing, rehabilitating, repairing, or 167
maintaining sidewalks, walkways, trails, bicycle pathways, or 168
similar improvements, or acquiring ownership interests in land 169
necessary for the foregoing improvements; 170

(PP) For both of the purposes set forth in divisions (G) and 171
(OO) of this section. 172

(QQ) For both of the purposes set forth in divisions (H) and 173
(HH) of this section. This division applies only to a township. 174

(RR) For the legislative authority of a municipal 175
corporation, board of county commissioners of a county, or board 176
of township trustees of a township to acquire agricultural 177
easements, as defined in section 5301.67 of the Revised Code, and 178
to supervise and enforce the easements. 179

(SS) For both of the purposes set forth in divisions (BB) and 180
(KK) of this section. This division applies only to a county. 181

(TT) For the maintenance and operation of a facility that is 182
organized in whole or in part to promote the sciences and natural 183
history under section 307.761 of the Revised Code. 184

The resolution shall be confined to the purpose or purposes 185
described in one division of this section, to which the revenue 186
derived therefrom shall be applied. The existence in any other 187
division of this section of authority to levy a tax for any part 188
or all of the same purpose or purposes does not preclude the use 189
of such revenues for any part of the purpose or purposes of the 190
division under which the resolution is adopted. 191

The resolution shall specify the amount of the increase in 192
rate that it is necessary to levy, the purpose of that increase in 193
rate, and the number of years during which the increase in rate 194
shall be in effect, which may or may not include a levy upon the 195
duplicate of the current year. The number of years may be any 196
number not exceeding five, except as follows: 197

(1) When the additional rate is for the payment of debt 198
charges, the increased rate shall be for the life of the 199
indebtedness. 200

(2) When the additional rate is for any of the following, the	201
increased rate shall be for a continuing period of time:	202
(a) For the current expenses for a detention facility	203
district, a district organized under section 2151.65 of the	204
Revised Code, or a combined district organized under sections	205
2151.65 and 2152.41 of the Revised Code;	206
(b) For providing a county's share of the cost of maintaining	207
and operating schools, district detention facilities, forestry	208
camps, or other facilities, or any combination thereof,	209
established under section 2151.65 or 2152.41 of the Revised Code	210
or under both of those sections.	211
(3) When the additional rate is for either of the following,	212
the increased rate may be for a continuing period of time:	213
(a) For the purposes set forth in division (I), (J), (U), or	214
(KK) of this section;	215
(b) For the maintenance and operation of a joint recreation	216
district.	217
(4) When the increase is for the purpose or purposes set	218
forth in division (D), (G), (H), (CC), or (PP) of this section,	219
the tax levy may be for any specified number of years or for a	220
continuing period of time, as set forth in the resolution.	221
(5) When the additional rate is for the purpose described in	222
division (Z) of this section, the increased rate shall be for any	223
number of years not exceeding ten.	224
A levy for one of the purposes set forth in division (G),	225
(I), (J), or (U) of this section may be reduced pursuant to	226
section 5705.261 or 5705.31 of the Revised Code. A levy for one of	227
the purposes set forth in division (G), (I), (J), or (U) of this	228
section may also be terminated or permanently reduced by the	229
taxing authority if it adopts a resolution stating that the	230

continuance of the levy is unnecessary and the levy shall be 231
terminated or that the millage is excessive and the levy shall be 232
decreased by a designated amount. 233

A resolution of a detention facility district, a district 234
organized under section 2151.65 of the Revised Code, or a combined 235
district organized under both sections 2151.65 and 2152.41 of the 236
Revised Code may include both current expenses and other purposes, 237
provided that the resolution shall apportion the annual rate of 238
levy between the current expenses and the other purpose or 239
purposes. The apportionment need not be the same for each year of 240
the levy, but the respective portions of the rate actually levied 241
each year for the current expenses and the other purpose or 242
purposes shall be limited by the apportionment. 243

Whenever a board of county commissioners, acting either as 244
the taxing authority of its county or as the taxing authority of a 245
sewer district or subdistrict created under Chapter 6117. of the 246
Revised Code, by resolution declares it necessary to levy a tax in 247
excess of the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of constructing, 248
improving, or extending sewage disposal plants or sewage systems, 249
the tax may be in effect for any number of years not exceeding 250
twenty, and the proceeds of the tax, notwithstanding the general 251
provisions of this section, may be used to pay debt charges on any 252
obligations issued and outstanding on behalf of the subdivision 253
for the purposes enumerated in this paragraph, provided that any 254
such obligations have been specifically described in the 255
resolution. 256

The resolution shall go into immediate effect upon its 257
passage, and no publication of the resolution is necessary other 258
than that provided for in the notice of election. 259

When the electors of a subdivision have approved a tax levy 260
under this section, the taxing authority of the subdivision may 261
anticipate a fraction of the proceeds of the levy and issue 262

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anticipation notes in accordance with section 5705.191 or 5705.193 263
of the Revised Code. 264

Section 2. That existing section 5705.19 of the Revised Code 265
is hereby repealed. 266