



SANITARY ENGINEERS SUMMER CONFERENCE

James Kennedy

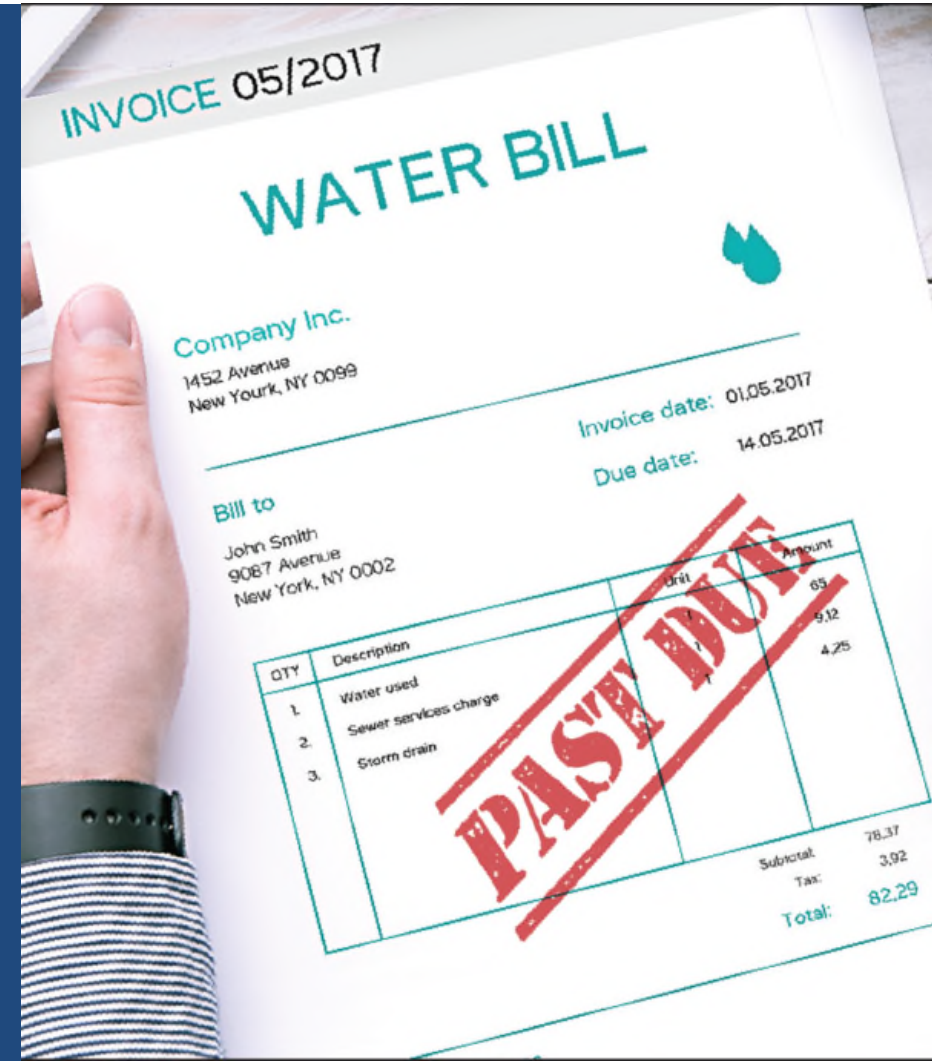
HB92/SB118- LIMITATIONS ON RECOVERY AND LIEN IMPOSITION BY MUNICIPALITIES



- ❖ Sponsors- Representative McClain & Representative Johnson / Senator Lang
- HB 92- House Local Government Committee- 3rd Hearing 5,21,2025 / SB 118- Senate Local Government Committee 2nd hearing 6/11/2025.
- A lien filed from a municipal authority may be certified by the County Auditor under the following circumstances:
 1. Property owner occupies the residence.
 2. Property owner agreed to pay all unpaid rates and charges.
 3. The municipality attempted to mitigate any unpaid rates or charges by adhering to its protocol for terminating service for delinquent payments.
 4. The municipality attempted to collect any unpaid rates or charges before proceeding against the property owner.
- A lien cannot be placed on a property that the homeowner does not reside in. However, a lien can be placed on owner occupied property as long as the owner was notified by the municipal authority prior to the lien being placed on the property.
- Allows a municipal authority to track individuals with unpaid rates or charges for any municipal service under certain circumstances.
- Allows a municipal authority to add a “tenant reinstatement fee” if the municipal service was terminated either by the tenant owner or the municipal authority.
- An individual believed to have been improperly billed will have the ability to file a complaint to the service provider.

HB92 / SB118- CONTINUED

- The Service provider will have 10 business day to respond to the complaint. If the complaint is not resolved to the complaining person's satisfaction, an appeal may be filed with the county or municipal court when the amount is \$300 or greater.
- The county or municipal court must also hear appeals in situations where the property owner is held responsible for payment when a tenant fails to make payment for municipal services.
- The count or municipal court must rule in favor with the property owner under the following circumstances:
 - Unpaid rates or charges did not arise from a contract with the property owner.
 - Property Owner did not reside in the property under contract.
- The municipal authority must pay attorney's fees if the municipal or county court finds for the property owner.



SB 45- COUNTY SEWER DISCOUNTED RATES



❖ Sponsor- Senator Ingram

- First Hearing- Senate Local Government Committee, 2/12/2025
- Allows a Board of County Commissioners to expand eligibility for county sewer discounted rates to the following individuals:
 1. People aged 65 or greater.
 2. Low to moderate income (Defined by OHFA)
 3. Temporary Hardship
- Current Law- Board of County Commissioners have the ability to reduce county sewer rates on individuals that are 65 years or older and qualify for a homestead exemption or meet the threshold of low to moderate income.

HB 139 - REQUIRE SPECIFIED TESTING OF FIRE HYDRANT SYSTEMS



❖ Sponsor- Representative Hall

- Third Hearing- House Local Government Committee, 6/18/2025

- The bill will implement the following standards for inspection, testing, and maintenance for fire hydrant systems:

1. Fire hydrants must be inspected annually and after each operation. A flow test and general maintenance must be conducted annually.
2. Fire service main piping must be inspected annually. A flow test must be conducted every five years.
3. Fire service main piping strainers must be inspected and receive general maintenance care after each use.

HB 227 - MODIFY EXCAVATION REQUIREMENTS

❖ Sponsor- Representative Johnson / Representative Robb Blasdel

▪ Fourth Hearing- House Commerce and Labor Committee, 6/04/2025

▪ Modifies the definition of excavation:

1. Includes any activity by a governmental entity which does not penetrate the earth to a depth of more than 12 inches. (Allows Ohio to be eligible for Federal Funding)
2. The bill changes this to exempt specific activities when performed in a public right-of-way: milling and grinding road surfaces, utility pole inspections, tilling for sowing of grass, and placement of temporary signage.

▪ Modifies the required timing of a notice provided by an excavator to a protection service before beginning an excavation project.

1. From at least 48 hrs but not more than ten working days to at least two working days not including the day of the notification but not more than 16 calendar days



COUNTY GOVERNMENT REFORMS

- **County Elected Official Increases:**
Current budget proposals to increase all county elected official's salaries by 5% each year until 2029.
 - ❖ House Version: Extends a 3% increase after 2029
 - ❖ Senate Version: Pay Increases stop at 2029.
- **County Coroner Elected Position Removed:** The House proposed language within the operating budget to remove the County Coroner as an elected position, they would instead be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The Senate removed this language from their proposal.
- **Removal of the County Prosecutor from the County Budget Commission:**
The House proposed language to remove the County Prosecutor from the CBC to replace them with the President of the BOCC. The Senate removed this language.



136TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATE OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW

- **Full County Reimbursement for Indigent Defense-** For SFY 25, Counties are receiving 78% reimbursement from the state. The inserted language that moves the reimbursement to roughly 85% over SFY 26 and 27. The House also added language that creates a state-administered pilot program in certain counties (Allen, Putnam, Hardin). House also included language that caps reimbursement to \$75 per hour. The Senate kept the pilot program and removed the cap on reimbursement. The Senate also reverted to the Governor's proposed budget which takes funding to the mid 70% range.
- **Next Generation 9-1-1 –** Continue Financial Support for Next Generation 9-1-1 Technology Upgrades and Ongoing Operational Costs. The House raised the fee on Next Gen 9-1-1 from the current number of \$.40 to \$.60. Senate kept the fee at \$.60 along with changing the allocation amount of how much counties will receive from 72% to 81.33%.
- **HB 335 –** Will remove the ability of local governments from collecting inside millage. County portion is roughly \$850 million annually. The bill will allow counties to levy up to an additional 1% sales tax above the current max with voter's approval. If approved, the additional sales and use tax will make 76 out of 88 counties whole. A version of this bill, along with other property tax proposals are expected to be added to the final version of the operating budget.

