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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 531  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

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**Version:** As Passed by the House

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Ghanbari

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### SUMMARY

- Allows a county prosecuting attorney to provide legal services to a regional council of governments, a metropolitan planning organization, or a regional transportation planning organization.
- Allows the county prosecuting attorney to charge a fee for legal services agreed to under the contract.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### County prosecutor as legal adviser

The bill allows a county prosecuting attorney, in the prosecuting attorney's discretion and with the approval of the board of county commissioners, to contract with a regional council of governments, metropolitan planning organization, or regional transportation planning organization to be its legal adviser.

The contract may provide for the payment of a fee to the prosecuting attorney for legal services agreed to under the contract. All money received under the contract must be deposited into the prosecuting attorney's legal services fund. Money in that fund may be appropriated only to the prosecuting attorney for providing legal services under the contract.

If the regional council of governments, metropolitan planning organization, or regional transportation planning organization covers territory or a region in more than one county, the council or organization may choose the prosecuting attorney with whom it enters into the contract, with the approval of the board of county commissioners of that county.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 167.05 and 309.09.

This authority exists under continuing law for other, similar entities such as regional planning commissions and regional airport authorities. The bill mirrors the language currently applicable to those entities.<sup>2</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-12-22
Reported, H. Civil Justice	03-02-22
Passed House (96-0)	03-09-22

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 713.21, not in the bill, and R.C. 309.09.