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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 578  
133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. K. Smith

Chenwei Zhang, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Appropriates \$20 million from GRF to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to support homeless shelters and provide emergency rental assistance as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Declares an emergency.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Appropriation to support homeless shelters

The bill appropriates \$20 million from GRF in FY 2020 to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) to support homeless shelters in Ohio and provide necessary emergency rental assistance as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The OHFA must develop rules to establish an emergency rental assistance program to support individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and any orders from the Director of Health issued on March 9, 2020, and after.<sup>1</sup>

#### Emergency clause

The bill is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, and therefore goes into immediate effect.<sup>2</sup> Emergency laws require a two-thirds vote of the members of each house.<sup>3</sup> However, the bill consists entirely of an appropriation for current expense, which under the Ohio Constitution, takes effect immediately and requires only a majority vote of the members of each house.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1.

<sup>2</sup> Section 3.

<sup>3</sup> Ohio Constitution, Article II, Section 1d.

<sup>4</sup> Ohio Const., Art. II, Secs. 1d and 15.

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-23-20

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