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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

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Office

H.B. 245  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Ingram

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### SUMMARY

- Expands eligibility for county sewer discounted rates or charges or rate reductions to persons who are (1) 65 years of age or older, (2) low- and moderate-income persons, or (3) experiencing temporary hardship, from the current law requirement that eligible persons be 65 years of age or older and meet certain other requirements.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### County sewer discounted rates or charges

The bill expands eligibility for county sewer discounted rates or charges or other mechanism for rate reduction that a board of county commissioners is permitted to establish under continuing law. Under the bill, the board may establish discounted rates or charges or rate reductions for persons who are any of the following:

- 65 years of age or older;
- Low- and moderate-income persons;
- Experiencing temporary hardship.

Under current law, the discounted rates or charges or rate reductions may be provided to persons who are 65 years of age or older and who meet eligibility requirements established by the board, including a requirement that a person is eligible for the homestead exemption or qualifies as a low- and moderate-income person.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 6117.02(F).

## Low- and moderate-income persons

Both the bill and continuing law define “low- and moderate-income persons” as individuals and families who qualify as low- and moderate-income persons under guidelines established by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA).<sup>2</sup> OHFA may determine, and periodically review, who are low- and moderate-income persons by considering the amount of income available for housing, family size, the cost and condition of available housing, ability to pay the amounts the private market charges for decent, safe, and sanitary housing without federal subsidy or state assistance, and the income eligibility standards of federal programs. Income limits may vary from area to area within Ohio.<sup>3</sup>

### HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-31-21

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 6117.02(F)(2); R.C. 175.01(P) and 6117.01(A)(12), not in the bill. The bill may benefit from a corrective amendment to remove the definition of “low- and moderate-income persons” that is identical to the same definition that already applies in continuing law.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 175.05(B)(1), not in the bill.