As Introduced

133rd General Assembly
Regular Session **H. B. No. 663**
2019-2020

Representatives Hood, Dean

Cosponsors: Representatives Riedel, Lang, Keller, Brinkman, Jordan, Zeltwanger, Kick, McClain

A BILL

To amend sections 121.083, 123.281, 164.07, 176.011, 307.022, 307.671, 307.673, 307.674, 307.696, 351.06, 353.03, 1311.25, 1506.44, 1509.071, 1710.02, 5540.03, and 6117.012 and to repeal sections 176.05, 4115.03, 4115.031, 4115.033, 4115.034, 4115.04, 4115.05, 4115.06, 4115.07, 4115.071, 4115.08, 4115.09, 4115.10, 4115.101, 4115.11, 4115.12, 4115.13, 4115.131, 4115.132, 4115.133, 4115.14, 4115.15, 4115.16, 4115.21, 4115.99, and 6121.061 of the Revised Code to repeal the Prevailing Wage Law.

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

Section 1. That sections 121.083, 123.281, 164.07, 176.011, 307.022, 307.671, 307.673, 307.674, 307.696, 351.06, 353.03, 1311.25, 1506.44, 1509.071, 1710.02, 5540.03, and 6117.012 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 121.083. The superintendent of industrial compliance in the department of commerce shall do all of the following:

(A) Administer and enforce the general laws of this state pertaining to buildings, pressure piping, boilers, bedding, upholstered furniture, and stuffed toys, steam engineering, elevators, plumbing, licensed occupations regulated by the department, and travel agents, as they apply to plans review, inspection, code enforcement, testing, licensing, registration, and certification.

(B) Exercise the powers and perform the duties delegated to the superintendent by the director of commerce under Chapters 4109.~~,~~ and 4111.~~, and 4115.~~ of the Revised Code.

(C) Collect and collate statistics as are necessary.

(D) Examine and license persons who desire to act as steam engineers, to operate steam boilers, and to act as inspectors of steam boilers, provide for the scope, conduct, and time of such examinations, provide for, regulate, and enforce the renewal and revocation of such licenses, inspect and examine steam boilers and make, publish, and enforce rules and orders for the construction, installation, inspection, and operation of steam boilers, and do, require, and enforce all things necessary to make such examination, inspection, and requirement efficient.

(E) Rent and furnish offices as needed in cities in this state for the conduct of its affairs.

(F) Oversee a chief of construction and compliance, a chief of operations and maintenance, a chief of licensing and certification, a chief of worker protection, and other designees appointed by the director to perform the duties described in this section.

(G) Enforce the rules the board of building standards adopts pursuant to division (A)(2) of section 4104.43 of the

Revised Code under the circumstances described in division (D) of that section.

(H) Accept submissions, establish a fee for submissions, and review submissions of certified welding and brazing procedure specifications, procedure qualification records, and performance qualification records for building services piping as required by section 4104.44 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 123.281. (A) The Ohio facilities construction commission shall provide for the construction of a cultural project in conformity with Chapter 153. of the Revised Code, except for construction services provided on behalf of the state by a governmental agency or a cultural organization in accordance with divisions (B) and (C) of this section.

(B) In order for a governmental agency or a cultural organization to provide construction services on behalf of the state for a cultural project, other than a state historical facility, for which the general assembly has made an appropriation or specifically authorized the spending of money or the making of rental payments relating to the financing of the construction, the governmental agency or cultural organization shall submit to the Ohio facilities construction commission a cooperative use agreement that includes, but is not limited to, provisions that:

(1) Specify how the proposed project will support culture;

(2) Specify that the governmental agency or cultural organization has local contributions amounting to not less than fifty per cent of the total state funding for the cultural project;

(3) Specify that the funds shall be used only for

construction;

(4) Identify the facility to be constructed, renovated, remodeled, or improved;

(5) Specify that the project scope meets the intent and purpose of the project appropriation and that the project can be completed and ready to support culture without exceeding appropriated funds;

(6) Specify that the governmental agency or cultural organization shall hold the Ohio facilities construction commission harmless from all liability for the operation and maintenance costs of the facility;

(7) Specify that the agreement or any actions taken under it are not subject to Chapter 123. or 153. of the Revised Code, except for sections 123.20, 123.201, 123.21, 123.28, 123.281, and 153.011 of the Revised Code~~, and are subject to Chapter 4115. of the Revised Code~~; and

(8) Provide that amendments to the agreement shall require the approval of the Ohio facilities construction commission.

(C) In order for a cultural organization to provide construction services on behalf of the state for a state historical facility for which the general assembly has made an appropriation or specifically authorized the spending of money or the making of rental payments relating to the financing of the construction, the cultural organization shall submit to the Ohio facilities construction commission a cooperative use agreement that includes, but is not limited to, provisions that:

(1) Specify how the proposed project will support culture;

(2) Specify that the funds shall be used only for

construction;

(3) Specify that not more than three per cent of the funds may be used by the cultural organization to administer the project;

(4) Identify the facility to be constructed, renovated, remodeled, or improved;

(5) Specify that the project scope meets the intent and purpose of the project appropriation and that the project can be completed and ready to support culture without exceeding appropriated funds;

(6) Specify that the cultural organization shall hold the Ohio facilities construction commission harmless from all liability for the operation and maintenance costs of the facility;

(7) Specify that the agreement or any actions taken under it are not subject to Chapter 123.~~,~~ or 153.~~, or 4115.~~ of the Revised Code, except for sections 123.20, 123.201, 123.21, 123.28, and 123.281 of the Revised Code; and

(8) Provide that amendments to the agreement shall require the approval of the Ohio facilities construction commission.

(D) For an Ohio sports facility that is financed in part by obligations issued under Chapter 154. of the Revised Code, construction services shall be provided on behalf of the state by or at the direction of the governmental agency or nonprofit corporation that will own or be responsible for the management of the facility. Any construction services to be provided by a governmental agency or nonprofit corporation shall be specified in a cooperative use agreement between the Ohio facilities construction commission and the governmental agency or nonprofit corporation. The agreement and any actions taken under it are not subject to Chapter 123. or 153. of the Revised Code, except for sections 123.20, 123.201, 123.21, 123.28, 123.281, and 153.011 of the Revised Code~~, and are subject to Chapter 4115. of the Revised Code~~.

(E) State funds shall not be used to pay or reimburse more than fifteen per cent of the initial estimated construction cost of an Ohio sports facility, excluding any site acquisition cost, and no state funds, including any state bond proceeds, shall be spent on any Ohio sports facility under this chapter unless, with respect to that facility, all of the following apply:

(1) The Ohio facilities construction commission has received a financial and development plan satisfactory to it, and provision has been made, by agreement or otherwise, satisfactory to the commission, for a contribution amounting to not less than eighty-five per cent of the total estimated construction cost of the facility, excluding any site acquisition cost, from sources other than the state.

(2) The general assembly has specifically authorized the spending of money on, or made an appropriation for, the construction of the facility, or for rental payments relating to state financing of all or a portion of the costs of constructing the facility. Authorization to spend money, or an appropriation, for planning or determining the feasibility of or need for the facility does not constitute authorization to spend money on, or an appropriation for, costs of constructing the facility.

(3) If state bond proceeds are being used for the Ohio sports facility, the state or a governmental agency owns or has sufficient property interests in the facility or in the site of the facility or in the portion or portions of the facility

financed from proceeds of state bonds, which may include, but is not limited to, the right to use or to require the use of the facility for the presentation of sport and athletic events to the public at the facility.

(F) In addition to the requirements of division (E) of this section, no state funds, including any state bond proceeds, shall be spent on any Ohio sports facility that is a motorsports complex, unless, with respect to that facility, both of the following apply:

(1) Motorsports events shall be presented at the facility pursuant to a lease entered into with the owner of the facility. The term of the lease shall be for a period of not less than the greater of the useful life of the portion of the facility financed from proceeds of state bonds as determined using the guidelines for maximum maturities as provided under divisions (B) and (C) of section 133.20 of the Revised Code, or the period of time remaining to the date of payment or provision for payment of outstanding state bonds allocable to costs of the facility, all as determined by the director of budget and management and certified by the executive director of the Ohio facilities construction commission and to the treasurer of state.

(2) Any motorsports organization that commits to using the facility for an established period of time shall give the political subdivision in which the facility is located not less than six months' advance notice if the organization intends to cease utilizing the facility prior to the expiration of that established period. Such a motorsports organization shall be liable to the state for any state funds used on the construction costs of the facility.

(G) In addition to the requirements of division (E) of this section, no state bond proceeds shall be spent on any Ohio sports facility that is a tennis facility, unless the owner or manager of the facility provides contractual commitments from a national or international professional tennis organization in a form acceptable to the Ohio facilities construction commission that assures that one or more sanctioned professional tennis events will be presented at the facility during each year that the bonds remain outstanding.

Sec. 164.07. ~~(A)~~ In awarding contracts for capital improvement projects to be financed in whole or in part under this chapter, a local subdivision shall comply with the percentage requirements of section 125.081 of the Revised Code.

~~(B) A capital improvement that is financed in whole or in part under this chapter is a public improvement, and a subdivision undertaking a capital improvement is a public authority, for purposes of section 4115.03 of the Revised Code. All contractors and subcontractors working on a capital improvement financed in whole or in part under this chapter shall comply with sections 4115.03 to 4115.16 of the Revised Code.~~

Sec. 176.011. This section does not apply to any county having a population exceeding one million persons, according to the United States bureau of the census, on ~~the effective date of this section~~ May 15, 1992, or to any township or municipal corporation located within such a county.

(A) A board of county commissioners, a board of township trustees, the chief executive officer of a municipal corporation with the consent of the legislative authority of the municipal corporation, or any combination of these, may do one or both of the following:

(1) Create and participate in a nonprofit corporation incorporated under Chapter 1702. of the Revised Code for the purpose of receiving funds from any person to be expended, granted, loaned, or invested for housing purposes, to ensure the efficient use of these funds, and for the coordination of the use of the funds with other local governments. A nonprofit corporation created under division (A)(1) of this section shall not have among its purposes the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing. All funds received by the nonprofit corporation shall be expended for housing purposes under Section 16 of Article VIII, Ohio Constitution, and section 176.04 of the Revised Code.

(2) Create and participate in a nonprofit corporation incorporated under Chapter 1702. of the Revised Code for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, or rehabilitating housing under Section 16 of Article VIII, Ohio Constitution, and section 176.04 of the Revised Code, or participate in an existing nonprofit corporation whose purpose includes the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing. A nonprofit corporation created under division (A)(2) of this section shall not have among its purposes any of the purposes for which a nonprofit corporation created under division (A)(1) of this section may be created. The governing board of a nonprofit corporation created under division (A)(2) of this section or in which a county, township, or municipal corporation participates under division (A)(2) of this section shall consist of not more than one-third elected officials or appointees thereof of the county, township, or municipal corporation, or combination thereof, that through the governing boards or chief executive officers create or participate in such corporation.

~~Housing acquired, constructed, or rehabilitated by a nonprofit corporation created under division (A)(2) of this section is a project for purposes of section 176.05 of the Revised Code and shall be considered a project undertaken by a county, township, or municipal corporation for purposes of section 176.05 of the Revised Code.~~

Not more than fifteen per cent of the funds received by a nonprofit corporation created under division (A)(1) or (2) of this section from any county, township, or municipal corporation shall be used for administration and salaries of the nonprofit organization. Funds distributed to the nonprofit corporation from any board of county commissioners, board of township trustees, or municipal corporation shall be considered an expenditure for housing purposes under Section 16 of Article VIII, Ohio Constitution. A nonprofit corporation created under division (A)(1) or (2) of this section is a public body for purposes of section 121.22 of the Revised Code, and is subject to that section.

(B) A county, township, or municipal corporation may distribute funds to a nonprofit corporation created under division (A)(1) or (2) of this section that its board or chief executive officer created or in which the board or chief executive officer participates, and no such distribution constitutes a conflict of interest.

(C) Service as a member, trustee, officer, employee, or agent of a nonprofit corporation created under division (A) of this section does not constitute a conflict of interest with the following:

(1) Employment by or membership on a board of county commissioners or a board of township trustees from which the

nonprofit corporation receives funds;

(2) Service as the chief executive officer or as a member of the legislative authority of, or employment by, a municipal corporation from which the nonprofit corporation receives funds;

(3) Service on a housing advisory board serving any of the political subdivisions named in division (C) of this section.

(D) A housing advisory board established or designated by any municipal corporation, county, or township, alone or jointly, shall advise the nonprofit corporation created under division (A)(1) or (2) or both of this section in accordance with sections 176.01 and 176.04 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 307.022. (A) The board of county commissioners of any county may do both of the following without following the competitive bidding requirements of section 307.86 of the Revised Code:

(1) Enter into a lease, including a lease with an option to purchase, of correctional facilities for a term not in excess of forty years. Before entering into the lease, the board shall publish, once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or as provided in section 7.16 of the Revised Code, a notice that the board is accepting proposals for a lease pursuant to this division. The notice shall state the date before which the proposals are required to be submitted in order to be considered by the board.

(2) Subject to compliance with this section, grant leases, easements, and licenses with respect to, or sell, real property owned by the county if the real property is to be leased back by the county for use as correctional facilities.

The lease under division (A)(1) of this section shall require the county to contract, in accordance with Chapter 153.~~,~~ and sections 307.86 to 307.92~~, and Chapter 4115.~~ of the Revised Code, for the construction, improvement, furnishing, and equipping of correctional facilities to be leased pursuant to this section. Prior to the board's execution of the lease, it may require the lessor under the lease to cause sufficient money to be made available to the county to enable the county to comply with the certification requirements of division (D) of section 5705.41 of the Revised Code.

A lease entered into pursuant to division (A)(1) of this section by a board may provide for the county to maintain and repair the correctional facility during the term of the leasehold, may provide for the county to make rental payments prior to or after occupation of the correctional facilities by the county, and may provide for the board to obtain and maintain any insurance that the lessor may require, including, but not limited to, public liability, casualty, builder's risk, and business interruption insurance. The obligations incurred under a lease entered into pursuant to division (A)(1) of this section shall not be considered to be within the debt limitations of section 133.07 of the Revised Code.

(B) The correctional facilities leased under division (A)(1) of this section may include any or all of the following:

(1) Facilities in which one or more other governmental entities are participating or in which other facilities of the county are included;

(2) Facilities acquired, constructed, or renovated by or on behalf of the department of rehabilitation and correction or the department of administrative services, or financed by the treasurer of state, and leased to the county pursuant to section

307.021 of the Revised Code;

(3) Correctional facilities that are under construction or have been completed and for which no permanent financing has been arranged.

(C) As used in this section:

(1) "Correctional facilities" includes, but is not limited to, jails, detention facilities, workhouses, community-based correctional facilities, and family court centers.

(2) "Construction" ~~has the same meaning as in division (B) of section 4115.03 of the Revised Code~~ means any construction, reconstruction, improvement, enlargement, alteration, repair, painting, or decorating of any public improvement performed by other than full-time employees who have completed their probationary periods in the classified service of a public authority.

As used in division (C)(2) of this section:

(a) "Public improvement" means all buildings, roads, streets, alleys, sewers, ditches, and other structures or works constructed by a public authority or by any person who, pursuant to a contract with a public authority, constructs any structure or work for a public authority. When a public authority rents or leases a newly constructed structure within six months after completion of its construction, any work performed on that structure to suit it for occupancy is a "public improvement."

(b) "Public authority" means any officer, board, or commission of the state, or any political subdivision of the state, or any institution supported in whole or in part by public funds, authorized to enter into a contract for the construction of a public improvement or to construct a public improvement by the direct employment of labor.

Sec. 307.671. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Bonds" means, as the context requires: general obligation bonds of the county, or notes in anticipation thereof, described in division (B)(1)(b) of this section; revenue bonds of the port authority described in division (B)(2)(a) of this section; and urban renewal bonds, or notes in anticipation thereof, of the host municipal corporation described in division (B)(3)(a) of this section.

(2) "Corporation" means a nonprofit corporation that is organized under the laws of this state and that includes within the purposes for which it is incorporated the authorization to lease and operate facilities such as a port authority educational and cultural facility.

(3) "Debt service charges" means, for any period or payable at any time, the principal of and interest and any premium due on bonds for that period or payable at that time whether due at maturity or upon mandatory redemption, together with any required deposits to reserves for the payment of principal of and interest on such bonds, and includes any payments required by the port authority to satisfy any of its obligations arising from any guaranty agreements, reimbursement agreements, or other credit enhancement agreements described in division (C) of this section.

(4) "Host municipal corporation" means the municipal corporation within the boundaries of which the port authority educational and cultural facility is located.

(5) "Port authority" means a port authority created pursuant to the authority of section 4582.02 of the Revised Code

by a county and a host municipal corporation.

(6) "Port authority educational and cultural facility" means a facility located within an urban renewal area that may consist of a museum, archives, library, hall of fame, center for contemporary music, or other facilities necessary to provide programs of an educational and cultural nature, together with all parking facilities, walkways, and other auxiliary facilities, real and personal property, property rights, easements, and interests that may be appropriate for, or used in connection with, the operation of the facility.

(7) "Urban renewal area" means an area of a host municipal corporation that the legislative authority of the host municipal corporation has, at any time, designated as appropriate for an urban renewal project pursuant to Chapter 725. of the Revised Code.

(B) The board of county commissioners of a county, a port authority, and a host municipal corporation may enter into a cooperative agreement with a corporation, under which:

(1) The board of county commissioners agrees to do all of the following:

(a) Levy a tax under division (D) of section 5739.09 of the Revised Code exclusively for the purposes described in divisions (B)(1)(c) and (d) of this section;

(b) Issue general obligation bonds of the county, or notes in anticipation thereof, pursuant to Chapter 133. of the Revised Code, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, and equipping the port authority educational and cultural facility and contribute the proceeds from the issuance to the port authority for such purpose. The cooperative agreement may provide that such proceeds be deposited with and administered by the trustee pursuant to the trust agreement provided for in division (C) of this section.

(c) Following the issuance, sale, and delivery of the port authority revenue bonds provided for in division (B)(2)(a) of this section, and prior to the date certain stated in the cooperative agreement which shall be the date estimated for the completion of construction of the port authority educational and cultural facility, pledge and contribute to the port authority revenue from the tax levied pursuant to division (B)(1)(a) of this section, together with any investment earnings on that revenue, to pay a portion of the costs of acquiring, constructing, and equipping the port authority educational and cultural facility;

(d) Following such date certain, pledge and contribute to the corporation all or such portion as provided for in the cooperative agreement of the revenue from the tax, together with any investment earnings on that revenue, to pay a portion of the costs of the corporation of leasing the port authority educational and cultural facility from the port authority.

(2) The port authority agrees to do all of the following:

(a) Issue revenue bonds of the port authority pursuant to Chapter 4582. of the Revised Code for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, and equipping the port authority educational and cultural facility;

(b) Construct the port authority educational and cultural facility;

(c) Lease the port authority educational and cultural facility to the corporation;

(d) To the extent provided for in the cooperative agreement or the lease to the corporation, authorize the corporation to administer on behalf of the port authority the contracts for acquiring, constructing, or equipping a port authority educational and cultural facility;

(e) Use the revenue derived from the lease of the port authority educational and cultural facility to the corporation solely to pay debt service charges on the revenue bonds of the port authority described in division (B)(2)(a) of this section.

(3) The host municipal corporation agrees to do both of the following:

(a) Issue urban renewal bonds of the host municipal corporation, or notes in anticipation thereof, pursuant to Chapter 725. of the Revised Code for the purpose of acquiring and constructing the port authority educational and cultural facility and contribute the proceeds from the issuance to the port authority for such purpose. The cooperative agreement may provide that such proceeds be deposited with and administered by the trustee pursuant to the trust agreement provided for in division (C) of this section.

(b) To the extent provided for in the cooperative agreement, contribute to the county, for use by the county to pay debt service charges on the bonds of the county, or notes in anticipation thereof, described in division (B)(1)(b) of this section, any excess urban renewal service payments pledged by the host municipal corporation to the urban renewal bonds described in division (B)(3)(a) of this section and not required on an annual basis to pay debt service charges on the urban renewal bonds.

(4) The corporation agrees to do all of the following:

(a) Lease the port authority educational and cultural facility from the port authority;

(b) Operate and maintain the port authority educational and cultural facility pursuant to the lease;

(c) To the extent provided for in the cooperative agreement or the lease from the port authority, administer on behalf of the port authority the contracts for acquiring, constructing, or equipping a port authority educational and cultural facility.

(C) The pledges and contributions described in divisions (B)(1)(c) and (d) of this section and provided for in the cooperative agreement shall be for the period stated in the cooperative agreement, but shall not be in excess of the period necessary to provide for the final retirement of the port authority revenue bonds provided for in division (B)(2)(a) of this section and any bonds issued by the port authority to refund such bonds, and for the satisfaction by the port authority of any of its obligations arising from any guaranty agreements, reimbursement agreements, or other credit enhancement agreements relating to such bonds or to the revenues pledged to such bonds. The cooperative agreement shall provide for the termination of the cooperative agreement including the pledges and contributions described in divisions (B)(1)(c) and (d) of this section if the port authority revenue bonds provided for in division (B)(2)(a) of this section have not been issued, sold, and delivered within two years of the effective date of the cooperative agreement.

The cooperative agreement shall provide that any revenue bonds of the port authority shall be secured by a trust agreement between the port authority and a corporate trustee that is a trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or outside the state. The county may be a party to such trust agreement for the purpose of securing the pledge by the county of its contribution to the corporation pursuant to division (B)(1)(d) of this section. A tax levied pursuant to division (B)(1)(a) of this section is not subject to diminution by initiative or referendum or diminution by statute, unless provision is made therein for an adequate substitute therefor reasonably satisfactory to the trustee under the trust agreement that secures the revenue bonds of the port authority.

(D) A pledge of money by a county under this section shall not be net indebtedness of the county for purposes of section 133.07 of the Revised Code.

(E) If the terms of the cooperative agreement so provide, any contract for the acquisition, construction, or equipping of a port authority educational and cultural facility shall be made in such manner as is determined by the board of directors of the port authority, and unless the cooperative agreement provides otherwise, such a contract is not subject to division (A) of section 4582.12 of the Revised Code. The port authority may take the assignment of and assume any contracts for the acquisition, construction, and equipping of a port authority educational and cultural facility that previously have been authorized by either or both the host municipal corporation or the corporation. Such contracts likewise are not subject to division (A) of section 4582.12 of the Revised Code.

~~Any contract for the acquisition, construction, or equipping of a port authority educational and cultural facility~~

~~entered into, assigned, or assumed pursuant to this division shall provide that all laborers and mechanics employed for the acquisition, construction, or equipping of the port authority educational and cultural facility shall be paid at the prevailing rates of wages of laborers and mechanics for the class of work called for by the port authority educational and cultural facility, which wages shall be determined in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 4115. of the Revised Code for the determination of prevailing wage rates.~~

Sec. 307.673. This section applies only in a county in which a tax is levied under section 307.697, 4301.421, 5743.024, or 5743.323 of the Revised Code on July 19, 1995.

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "County taxes" means taxes levied by a board of county commissioners under division (D) of section 307.697, division (B) of section 4301.421, division (C) of section 5743.024, and section 5743.323 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Corporation" means a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of this state and that includes among the purposes for which it is incorporated the authority to acquire, construct, renovate, repair, equip, lease, manage, or operate a sports facility.

(3) "Cooperative agreement" means an agreement entered into pursuant to this section.

(4) "Cost of a sports facility" means the cost of acquiring, constructing, renovating, repairing, equipping, or improving one or more sports facilities, including reconstructing, rehabilitating, remodeling, and enlarging; the cost of equipping and furnishing such a facility; and all

financing costs pertaining thereto, including the cost of engineering, architectural, and other professional services, designs, plans, specifications and surveys, and estimates of costs; the costs of refinancing obligations issued by, or reimbursement of money advanced by, the parties to the cooperative agreement or other persons, the proceeds of which obligations were used to pay the costs of the sports facility; the cost of tests and inspections; the cost of any indemnity or surety bonds and premiums on insurance, all related direct and administrative costs pertaining thereto, fees and expenses of trustees, depositories, and paying agents for the obligations, capitalized interest on the obligations, amounts necessary to establish reserves as required by the obligation proceedings, the reimbursement of money advanced or applied by the parties to the cooperative agreement or other persons for the payment of any item of costs of the sports facility, and all other expenses necessary or incident to planning or determining the feasibility or practicability with respect to the sports facility; and any other such expenses as may be necessary or incident to the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, remodeling, renovation, repair, enlargement, improvement, equipping, and furnishing of the sports facility, the financing of the sports facility, placing the sports facility in use and operation, including any one, part of, or combination of such classes of costs and expenses.

(5) "Financing costs" has the same meaning as in section 133.01 of the Revised Code.

(6) "Obligations" means obligations issued or incurred to pay the cost of a sports facility, including bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness, commercial paper, and other instruments in writing, anticipatory securities as defined in

section 133.01 of the Revised Code, issued or incurred by an issuer pursuant to Chapter 133. or 4582. of the Revised Code or this section, or otherwise, to evidence the issuer's obligation to repay borrowed money, or to pay interest, by, or to pay at any future time other money obligations of, the issuer of the obligations, including obligations of an issuer or lessee to make payments under an installment sale, lease, lease-purchase, or similar agreement.

(7) "Owner" means any person that owns or operates a professional athletic or sports team, that is party to a cooperative agreement, or that has a lease or other agreement with a party to a cooperative agreement, and that commits to use the sports facility that is the subject of the cooperative agreement for all of the team's home games for the period specified in that agreement.

(8) "Payments," when used with reference to obligations, means payments of the principal, including any mandatory sinking fund deposits and mandatory redemption payments, interest and any redemption premium, and lease rentals, lease-purchase payments and other amounts payable under obligations in the form of installment sale, lease, lease-purchase, or similar agreements.

(9) "Person" has the same meaning as defined in section 133.01 of the Revised Code.

(10) "Port authority" means a port authority created under Chapter 4582. of the Revised Code.

(11) "Sports facility" means a facility, including a stadium, that is intended to house or provide a site for one or more major league professional athletic or sports teams or

activities, together with all spectator facilities, parking facilities, walkways, and auxiliary facilities, real and personal property, property rights, easements, leasehold estates, and interests that may be appropriate for, or used in connection with, the operation of the sports facility.

(B) The board of county commissioners of a county, the legislative authority of a municipal corporation, a port authority, a corporation, and an owner, or any combination thereof, may enter into one or more cooperative agreements under which the parties enter into one or more of the agreements described in divisions (B)(1) to (5) of this section.

(1) The board of county commissioners agrees to do one or more of the following:

(a) Levy a tax under division (D) of section 307.697, division (B) of section 4301.421, division (C) of section 5743.024, and section 5743.323 of the Revised Code and make available all or a portion of the revenue from those taxes for the payment of the cost of the sports facility or to make payments on obligations;

(b) Issue or incur obligations of the county pursuant to Chapter 133. of the Revised Code or this section;

(c) Make available all or a portion of the revenue from those taxes or of the proceeds from the issuance of those obligations to the municipal corporation, port authority, corporation, or otherwise for the payment of the cost of a sports facility or the payment of obligations;

(d) Acquire, construct, renovate, repair, equip, lease to or from another person, and operate, directly or by a lease or management contract with another person, one or more sports facilities;

(e) To the extent provided in the cooperative agreement or a lease with respect to a sports facility, authorize the municipal corporation, port authority, corporation, or owner to administer contracts for designing, planning, acquiring, constructing, renovating, repairing, or equipping a sports facility.

(2) The port authority agrees to do one or more of the following:

(a) Issue or incur obligations of the port authority pursuant to Chapter 133. or 4582. of the Revised Code or this section;

(b) Make available all or a portion of the proceeds from the issuance of those obligations to the municipal corporation, county, or corporation for the payment of the cost of a sports facility or the payment of obligations;

(c) Acquire, construct, renovate, repair, equip, lease to or from another person, and operate, directly or by a lease or management contract with another person, one or more sports facilities;

(d) To the extent provided in the cooperative agreement or a lease with respect to a sports facility, authorize the municipal corporation, county, corporation, or owner to administer contracts for designing, planning, acquiring, constructing, renovating, repairing, or equipping a sports facility.

(3) The legislative authority of the municipal corporation agrees to do one or more of the following:

(a) Make available the revenue from taxes levied by the legislative authority for the payment of the cost of a sports facility or to make payments on obligations;

(b) Issue or incur obligations of the municipal corporation pursuant to Chapter 133. of the Revised Code or otherwise;

(c) Make available all or a portion of the proceeds from the issuance of those obligations to the county, port authority, corporation, or otherwise for the payment of the cost of a sports facility or the payment of obligations;

(d) Acquire, construct, renovate, repair, equip, lease to or from another person, and operate, directly or by a lease or management contract with another person, one or more sports facilities;

(e) To the extent provided in the cooperative agreement or a lease with respect to a sports facility, authorize the county, port authority, corporation, or owner to administer contracts for designing, planning, acquiring, constructing, renovating, repairing, or equipping a sports facility.

(4) The corporation agrees to do one or more of the following:

(a) Issue or incur obligations;

(b) Make available all or a portion of the proceeds from the issuance of those obligations to the county, port authority, municipal corporation, or otherwise for the payment of the cost of a sports facility or the payment of obligations;

(c) Acquire, construct, renovate, repair, equip, lease to or from another person, and operate, directly or by a lease or management contract with another person, one or more sports facilities;

(d) To the extent provided in the cooperative agreement or a lease with respect to a sports facility, agree that the corporation will administer contracts for designing, planning, acquiring, constructing, renovating, repairing, or equipping a sports facility.

(5) The owner agrees to do one or more of the following:

(a) Use the sports facility that is the subject of the cooperative agreement for all of the home games of the owner's professional athletic or sports team for a specified period;

(b) Administer contracts for designing, planning, acquiring, constructing, renovating, repairing, or equipping a sports facility.

(C) Any obligations may be secured by a trust agreement between the issuer of obligations and a corporate trustee that is a trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company in or outside this state and authorized to exercise corporate trust powers in this state. Proceeds from the issuance of any obligations or the taxes levied and collected by any party to the cooperative agreement may be deposited with and administered by a trustee pursuant to the trust agreement.

~~(D) Any contract for the acquisition, construction, renovation, repair, or equipping of a sports facility entered into, assigned, or assumed under this section shall provide that all laborers and mechanics employed in the acquisition, construction, renovation, repair, or equipping of the sports facility shall be paid at the prevailing rates of wages of laborers and mechanics for the class of work called for, as~~

~~those wages are determined in accordance with Chapter 4115. of the Revised Code.~~

Sec. 307.674. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Bonds" means:

(a) Revenue bonds of the port authority described in division (B)(2)(a) of this section;

(b) Securities as defined in division (KK) of section 133.01 of the Revised Code issued by the host municipal corporation, described in division (B)(3)(a) of this section;

(c) Any bonds issued to refund any of those revenue bonds or securities.

(2) "Corporation" means a nonprofit corporation that is organized under the laws of this state and that includes within the purposes for which it is incorporated the authorization to lease and operate facilities such as a port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility.

(3) "Cost," as applied to a port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility, means the cost of acquiring, constructing, renovating, rehabilitating, equipping, or improving the facility, or any combination of those purposes, collectively referred to in this section as "construction," and the cost of acquisition of all land, rights of way, property rights, easements, franchise rights, and interests required for those purposes, the cost of demolishing or removing any buildings or structures on land so acquired, including the cost of acquiring any land to which those buildings or structures may be moved, the cost of public utility and common carrier relocation or duplication, the cost of all machinery, furnishings, and equipment, financing charges, interest prior to

and during construction and for not more than three years after completion of construction, costs arising under guaranty agreements, reimbursement agreements, or other credit enhancement agreements relating to bonds, engineering, expenses of research and development with respect to such facility, legal expenses, plans, specifications, surveys, studies, estimates of costs and revenues, other expenses necessary or incident to determining the feasibility or practicability of acquiring or constructing the facility, administrative expense, and other expenses as may be necessary or incident to that acquisition or construction and the financing of such acquisition or construction, including, with respect to the revenue bonds of a port authority, amounts to be paid into any special funds from the proceeds of those bonds, and repayments to the port authority, host county, host municipal corporation, or corporation of any amounts advanced for the foregoing purposes.

(4) "Debt service charges" means, for any period or payable at any time, the principal of and interest and any premium due on bonds for that period or payable at that time whether due at maturity or upon mandatory redemption, together with any required deposits to reserves for the payment of principal of and interest on those bonds, and includes any payments required by the port authority to satisfy any of its obligations under or arising from any guaranty agreements, reimbursement agreements, or other credit enhancement agreements described in division (C) of this section.

(5) "Host county" means the county within the boundaries of which the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility is or will be located.

(6) "Host municipal corporation" means the municipal

corporation within the boundaries of which the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility is or will be located.

(7) "Port authority" means a port authority created pursuant to section 4582.22 of the Revised Code.

(8) "Port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility" means a facility that consists of a center for music or other performing arts, a theater or other facilities to provide programs of an educational, recreational, or cultural nature, or any combination of those purposes as determined by the parties to the cooperative agreement for which provision is made in division (B) of this section to fulfill the public educational, recreational, and cultural purposes set forth therein, together with all parking facilities, walkways, and other auxiliary facilities, real and personal property, property rights, easements, and interests that may be appropriate for, or used in connection with, the operation of the facility.

(B) A host county, a host municipal corporation, and a port authority may enter into a cooperative agreement with a corporation under which, as further provided for in that agreement:

(1) The host county may agree to do any or all of the following:

(a) Levy and collect a tax under division (E) and division (F) of section 5739.09 of the Revised Code for the purposes, and in an amount sufficient for those purposes, described in divisions (B)(1)(b) and (c) of this section;

(b) Pay to the port authority all or such portion as provided for in the cooperative agreement of the revenue from the tax, together with any investment earnings on that revenue, to be used to pay a portion of the costs of acquiring, constructing, renovating, rehabilitating, equipping, or improving the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility;

(c) Pledge and pay to the corporation all or such portion as provided for in the cooperative agreement of the revenue from the tax, together with any investment earnings on that revenue, to be used to pay a portion of the costs to the corporation of leasing the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility from the port authority.

(2) The port authority may agree to do any or all of the following:

(a) Issue its revenue bonds pursuant to section 4582.48 of the Revised Code for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the costs of the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility;

(b) Acquire, construct, renovate, rehabilitate, equip, and improve the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility;

(c) Lease the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility to the corporation;

(d) To the extent provided for in the cooperative agreement or the lease to the corporation, authorize the corporation to administer on behalf of the port authority the contracts for acquiring, constructing, renovating, rehabilitating, or equipping the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility;

(e) Use the revenue derived from the lease of the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility to the corporation solely to pay debt service charges on revenue bonds of the port authority issued pursuant to division (B)(2)(a) of this section and to pay its obligations under or arising from any guaranty agreements, reimbursement agreements, or other credit enhancement agreements provided for in this section.

(3) The host municipal corporation may agree to do either or both of the following:

(a) Issue its bonds for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the costs of the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility, and pay the proceeds from the issuance to the port authority for that purpose;

(b) Enter into a guaranty agreement, a reimbursement agreement, or other credit enhancement agreement with the port authority to provide a guaranty or other credit enhancement of the port authority revenue bonds referred to in division (B)(2)(a) of this section pledging taxes, other than ad valorem property taxes, or other revenues for the purpose of providing the funds required to satisfy the host municipal corporation's obligations under that agreement.

The cooperative agreement may provide that the proceeds of such securities or of such guaranty agreement, reimbursement agreement, or other credit enhancement agreement be deposited with and administered by the trustee pursuant to the trust agreement authorized in division (C) of this section.

(4) The corporation may agree to do any or all of the following:

(a) Lease the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility from the port authority;

(b) Operate and maintain the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility pursuant to the lease;

(c) To the extent provided for in the cooperative agreement or the lease from the port authority, administer on behalf of the port authority the contracts for acquiring, constructing, renovating, rehabilitating, or equipping the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility.

(C) The pledge and payments referred to in divisions (B)(1)(b) and (c) of this section and provided for in the cooperative agreement shall be for the period stated in the cooperative agreement but shall not extend longer than the period necessary to provide for the final retirement of the port authority revenue bonds referred to in division (B)(2)(a) of this section, and for the satisfaction by the port authority of any of its obligations under or arising from any guaranty agreements, reimbursement agreements, or other credit enhancement agreements relating to those bonds or to the revenues pledged to them. The cooperative agreement shall provide for the termination of the cooperative agreement, including the pledge and payment referred to in division (B)(1)(c) of this section, if the port authority revenue bonds referred to in division (B)(2)(a) of this section have not been issued, sold, and delivered within five years of the effective date of the cooperative agreement.

The cooperative agreement shall provide that any port authority revenue bonds shall be secured by a trust agreement between the port authority and a corporate trustee that is a trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or outside the state but authorized to exercise trust powers within the state. The host county may be a party to that trust agreement for the purpose of better securing the pledge by the host county of its payment to the corporation pursuant to division (B)(1)(c) of this section. A tax levied pursuant to section 5739.09 of the Revised Code for the purposes specified in division (B)(1)(b) or (c) of this section is not subject to diminution by initiative or referendum or diminution by statute, unless provision is made for an adequate substitute reasonably satisfactory to the trustee under the trust agreement that secures the port authority revenue bonds.

(D) A pledge of money by a host county under this section shall not be net indebtedness of the host county for purposes of section 133.07 of the Revised Code. A guaranty or other credit enhancement by a host municipal corporation under this section shall not be net indebtedness of the host municipal corporation for purposes of section 133.05 of the Revised Code.

(E) If the terms of the cooperative agreement so provide, any contract for the acquisition, construction, renovation, rehabilitation, equipping, or improving of a port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility shall be made in such manner as is determined by the board of directors of the port authority, and unless the cooperative agreement provides otherwise, such a contract is not subject to division ~~(R)(2)~~ (A)(18)(b) of section 4582.31 of the Revised Code. The port authority may take the assignment of and assume any contracts for the acquisition, construction, renovation, rehabilitation, equipping, or improving of a port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility that had previously been authorized by any of the host county, the host municipality, or the corporation. Such contracts are not subject to division ~~(R)(2)~~ (A)(18)(b) of section 4582.31 of the Revised Code.

~~Any contract for the acquisition, construction, renovation, rehabilitation, equipping, or improving of a port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility entered into, assigned, or assumed pursuant to this division shall provide that all laborers and mechanics employed for the acquisition, construction, renovation, rehabilitation, equipping, or improving of that facility shall be paid at the prevailing rates of wages of laborers and mechanics for the class of work called for by the port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility, which wages shall be determined in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 4115. of the Revised Code for the determination of prevailing wage rates.~~

Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in section 123.281 of the Revised Code, construction services and general building services for a port authority educational and cultural performing arts facility funded completely or in part with money appropriated by the state to the Ohio facilities construction commission may be provided by a port authority or a corporation that occupies, will occupy, or is responsible for that facility, as determined by the commission. The construction services and general building services to be provided by the port authority or the corporation shall be specified in an agreement between the commission and the port authority or corporation. That agreement, or any actions taken under it, are not subject to Chapters 123. or 153. of the Revised Code~~, but are subject to Chapter 4115. of the Revised Code~~.

Sec. 307.696. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "County taxes" means taxes levied by the county pursuant to sections 307.697, 4301.421, 5743.024, and 5743.323

of the Revised Code.

(2) "Corporation" means a nonprofit corporation that is organized under the laws of this state for the purposes of operating or constructing and operating a sports facility in the county and that may also be organized under the laws of this state for the additional purposes of conducting redevelopment and economic development activities within the host municipal corporation.

(3) "Sports facility" means a sports facility that is intended to house major league professional athletic teams, including a stadium, together with all parking facilities, walkways, and other auxiliary facilities, real and personal property, property rights, easements, and interests that may be appropriate for, or used in connection with, the operation of the facility.

(4) "Construction" includes, but is not limited to, providing fixtures, furnishings, and equipment and providing for capital repairs and improvements.

(5) "Debt service charges" means the interest, principal, premium, if any, carrying and redemption charges, and expenses on bonds issued by either the county or the corporation to:

(a) Construct a sports facility or provide for related redevelopment or economic development as provided in this section;

(b) Acquire real and personal property, property rights, easements, or interests that may be appropriate for, or used in connection with, the operation of the facility; and

(c) Make site improvements to real property, including, but not limited to, demolition, excavation, and installation of footers, pilings, and foundations.

(6) "Host municipal corporation" means the municipal corporation within the boundaries of which the sports facility is located, and with which a national football league, major league baseball, or national basketball association sports franchise is associated on March 20, 1990.

(B) A board of county commissioners of a county that levies a tax under section 307.697, 4301.421, or 5743.024 of the Revised Code may enter into an agreement with a corporation operating in the county, and, if there is a host municipal corporation all or a part of which is located in the county, shall enter into an agreement with a corporation operating in the county and the host municipal corporation, under which:

(1)(a) The corporation agrees to construct and operate a sports facility in the county and to pledge and contribute all or any part of the revenues derived from its operation, as specified in the agreement, for the purposes described in division (C)(1) of this section; and

(b) The board agrees to levy county taxes and pledge and contribute any part or all of the revenues therefrom, as specified in the agreement, for the purposes described in division (C)(1) of this section; or

(2)(a) The corporation agrees to operate a sports facility constructed by the county and to pledge and contribute all or any part of the revenues derived from its operation, as specified in the agreement, for the purposes described in division (C)(2) of this section; and

(b) The board agrees to issue revenue bonds of the county, use the proceeds from the sale of the bonds to construct a sports facility in the county, and to levy county taxes and pledge and contribute all or any part of the revenues therefrom, as specified in the agreement, for the purposes described in division (C)(2) of this section; and, if applicable

(3) The host municipal corporation agrees to expend the unused pledges and contributions and surplus revenues as described in divisions (C)(1) and (2) of this section for redevelopment and economic development purposes related to the sports facility.

(C)(1) The primary purpose of the pledges and contributions described in division (B)(1) of this section is payment of debt service charges. To the extent the pledges and contributions are not used by the county or corporation for payment of debt service charges, the county or corporation, pursuant to the agreement provided for in division (B) of this section, shall provide the unused pledges and contributions, together with surplus revenues of the sports facility not needed for debt service charges or the operation and maintenance of the sports facility, to the host municipal corporation, or a nonprofit corporation, which may be the corporation acting on behalf of the host municipal corporation, for redevelopment and economic development purposes related to the sports facility. If the county taxes are also levied for the purpose of making permanent improvements, the agreement shall include a schedule of annual pledges and contributions by the county for the payment of debt service charges. The county's pledge and contribution provided for in the agreement shall be for the period stated in the agreement but not to exceed twenty years. The agreement shall provide that any such bonds and notes shall be secured by a trust agreement between the corporation or other bond issuer and a corporate trustee that is a trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or without the state, and the trust agreement shall pledge or assign to the retirement of the bonds or notes, all moneys paid by the county for that purpose under this section. A county tax, all or any part of the revenues from which are pledged under an agreement entered into by a board of county commissioners under this section shall not be subject to diminution by initiative or referendum, or diminution by statute, unless provision is made therein for an adequate substitute therefor reasonably satisfactory to the trustee under the trust agreement that secures the bonds and notes.

(2) The primary purpose of the pledges and contributions described in division (B)(2) of this section is payment of debt service charges. To the extent the pledges and contributions are not used by the county for payment of debt service charges, the county or corporation, pursuant to the agreement provided for in division (B) of this section, shall provide the unused pledges and contributions, together with surplus revenues of the sports facility not needed for debt service charges or the operation and maintenance of the sports facility, to the host municipal corporation, or a nonprofit corporation, which may be the corporation, acting on behalf of the host municipal corporation, for redevelopment and economic development purposes related to the sports facility. The corporation's pledge and contribution provided for in the agreement shall be until all of the bonds issued for the construction of the facility have been retired.

(D) A pledge of money by a county under this section shall not be indebtedness of the county for purposes of Chapter 133. of the Revised Code.

(E) If the terms of the agreement so provide, the board of county commissioners may acquire, make site improvements to, including, but not limited to, demolition, excavation, and installation of footers, pilings, and foundations, and lease real property for the sports facility to a corporation that constructs a sports facility under division (B)(1) of this section. The agreement shall specify the term, which shall not exceed thirty years and shall be on such terms as are set forth in the agreement. The purchase, improvement, and lease may be the subject of an agreement between the county and a municipal corporation located within the county pursuant to section 153.61 or 307.15 of the Revised Code, and are not subject to the limitations of sections 307.02 and 307.09 of the Revised Code.

(F) The corporation shall not enter into any construction contract or contract for the purchase of services for use in connection with the construction of a sports facility prior to the corporation's adoption and implementation of a policy on the set aside of contracts for bidding by or award to minority business enterprises, as defined in division (E)(1) of section 122.71 of the Revised Code. ~~Sections 4115.03 to 4115.16 of the Revised Code apply to a sports facility constructed under this section.~~

(G) Not more than one-half of the total costs, including debt service charges and cost of operation, of a project undertaken pursuant to an agreement entered into under division (B) of this section shall be paid from county taxes. Nothing in this section authorizes the use of revenues from county taxes or proceeds from the sale of bonds issued by the board of county commissioners for payment of costs of operation of a sports facility.

Sec. 351.06. ~~A facility to be constructed pursuant to this~~

~~chapter is a public improvement and a convention facilities authority is a public authority for purposes of section 4115.03 of the Revised Code. All contractors and subcontractors working on such facilities are subject to and shall comply with sections 4115.03 to 4115.16 of the Revised Code.~~ A convention facilities authority is a contracting authority for purposes of sections 307.86 to 307.91 of the Revised Code.

No convention facilities authority shall construct a facility under this chapter unless the plans for the facility provide for parking and transportation determined by the board of county commissioners as adequate to serve that facility.

A convention facilities authority may do all of the following:

(A) Adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business;

(B) Adopt an official seal;

(C) Maintain a principal office within its territory;

(D) Acquire, purchase, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, furnish, equip, maintain, repair, sell, exchange, lease or rent to, lease or rent from, operate, or contract for the operation by others of, facilities within its territory, and make charges for the use of the facilities;

(E) Make available the use or services of any facility to persons or governmental agencies on such terms and conditions as the authority shall determine;

(F) By resolution of its board of directors, issue convention facilities authority revenue bonds beyond the limit of bonded indebtedness provided by law, payable solely from revenues as provided in section 351.14 of the Revised Code, unless the bonds are refunded by refunding bonds, for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of any facility or facilities or parts of any facility or facilities, and, if moneys raised by taxation are not obligated or pledged for the payment of those revenue bonds, to pay the costs of any facility or facilities or parts of any facility or facilities pursuant to Section 13 of Article VIII, Ohio Constitution, and in order to create or preserve jobs and employment opportunities and improve the economic welfare of the people of the state;

(G) Maintain such funds as it determines necessary;

(H) Direct its agents or employees, when properly identified in writing and after at least five days' written notice, to enter upon lands within its territory in order to make surveys and examinations preliminary to location and construction of facilities, or other work for the purposes of the convention facilities authority, without liability of the authority or its agents or employees except for actual damage done;

(I) Promote, advertise, and publicize the authority and its facilities;

(J)(1) Adopt rules, not in conflict with general law, governing the use of its property, grounds, buildings, equipment, and facilities, and the conduct of its employees and the public, in order to promote the public safety and convenience in and about its facilities and grounds, and to maintain order. Any such rule shall be posted at a prominent place in each of the buildings or facilities to which it applies.

(2) No person shall violate any lawful rule adopted and posted as provided in this division.

(K) Acquire by gift or purchase, hold, lease, and dispose of real and personal property and interests in the property in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under this chapter;

(L) Acquire, in the name of the authority, by purchase or otherwise, on such terms and in such manner as the authority finds proper, or by the exercise of the right of appropriation in the manner provided by section 351.22 of the Revised Code, such public or private lands, including public parks, playgrounds, or reservations, or parts thereof or rights therein, rights-of-way, rights, franchises, easements, and interests as it finds necessary or proper for carrying out this chapter, and compensation shall be paid for public or private lands so taken;

(M) Make and enter into all contracts and agreements and execute all instruments necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its powers under this chapter provided that no construction contract or contract for the purchase of goods or services shall be approved or entered into by the authority prior to the adoption and implementation of a policy on the set aside of contracts for bidding by or award to minority business enterprises, as defined in division (E)(1) of section 122.71 of the Revised Code;

(N) Employ managers, superintendents, and other employees and retain or contract with consulting engineers, financial consultants, accounting experts, architects, attorneys, and such other consultants and independent contractors as are necessary in its judgment to carry out this chapter, and fix their compensation. All expenses of doing so shall be payable solely from the proceeds of convention facilities authority bonds and notes issued under this chapter, or from excise taxes and revenues.

(O) Receive and accept from any governmental agency grants for or in aid of the purposes of the authority, and receive and accept aid or contributions from any source of money, property, labor, or other things of value, to be held, used, and applied only for the purposes for which such grants and contributions are made;

(P) Engage in research and development with respect to facilities;

(Q) Purchase fire and extended coverage and liability insurance for any facility and for the offices of the authority, insurance protecting the authority and its officers and employees against liability for damage to property or injury to or death of persons arising from its operations, and any other insurance the authority may agree to provide under any resolution authorizing its convention facilities authority revenue bonds or in any trust agreement securing the same;

(R) Charge, alter, and collect rentals and other charges for the use or services of any facility as provided in section 351.09 of the Revised Code;

(S) If a tax proposed under section 5739.026 of the Revised Code is disapproved by the electors, request the board of county commissioners to dissolve the authority pursuant to section 351.03 of the Revised Code;

(T) By resolution of its board of directors, levy any of the excise taxes authorized by division (B) or (C) of section

351.021 of the Revised Code if authorized by the county commissioners, and issue convention facilities authority tax anticipation bonds beyond any limit of bonded indebtedness provided by law, payable solely from excise taxes levied pursuant to division (B) or (C) of section 351.021 of the Revised Code and revenues as provided in section 351.141 of the Revised Code.

(U) Do all acts necessary or proper to carry out the powers expressly granted in this chapter.

Sec. 353.03. A lake facilities authority may do all of the following:

(A) Acquire by purchase, lease, gift, or otherwise, on such terms and in such manner as it considers proper, real and personal property necessary for an authorized purpose or any estate, interest, or right therein, within or without the impacted lake district;

(B) Improve, remediate, maintain, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of real and personal property on such terms and in such manner as it considers proper;

(C) Request that the department of natural resources, the environmental protection agency, or the department of agriculture adopt, modify, and enforce reasonable rules and regulations governing impacted watersheds;

(D) Employ such managers, administrative officers, agents, engineers, architects, attorneys, contractors, subcontractors, and employees as may be appropriate in the exercise of the rights, powers, and duties conferred on it, prescribe the duties and compensation for such persons, require bonds to be given by any such persons and by officers of the authority for the faithful performance of their duties, and fix the amount and surety therefor, and pay the surety;

(E) Sue and be sued in its corporate name;

(F)(1) Make and enter into all contracts and agreements and execute all instruments relating to the provisions of this chapter;

(2) Except as provided otherwise under divisions (F)(2) and (3) of this section, when the cost of a contract for the construction of any building, structure, or other improvement undertaken by a lake facilities authority involves an expenditure exceeding fifty thousand dollars, and the lake facilities authority is the contracting authority, the lake facilities authority shall make a written contract after notice calling for bids for the award of the contract has been given by publication twice, with at least seven days between publications, in a newspaper of general circulation in the impacted lake district. Each such contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder in accordance with section 9.312 of the Revised Code. The board of directors by rule may provide criteria for the negotiation and award without competitive bidding of any contract as to which the lake facilities authority is the contracting authority for the construction of any building or structure or other improvement under any of the following circumstances:

(a) There exists a real and present emergency that threatens damage to property or injury to persons of the lake facilities authority or other persons, provided that a statement specifying the nature of the emergency that is the basis for the negotiation and award of a contract without competitive bidding shall be signed at the time of the contract's execution by the officer of the lake facilities authority that executes the contract and shall be attached to the contract.

(b) A commonly recognized industry or other standard or specification does not exist and cannot objectively be articulated for the improvement.

(c) The contract is for any energy conservation measure as defined in section 307.041 of the Revised Code.

(d) With respect to material to be incorporated into the improvement, only a single source or supplier exists for the material.

(e) A single bid is received by the lake facilities authority after complying with the above provisions.

(3) In addition to the exceptions to competitive bidding requirements under division (F)(2) of this section, a lake facilities authority may contract for the acquisition or construction of any property for an authorized purpose and for the leasing, subleasing, sale, or other disposition of the property in a manner determined by the lake facilities authority in its sole discretion, without necessity for competitive bidding or performance bonds.

~~(4) With respect to any public improvement undertaken by, or under contract for, the lake facilities authority, the authority may elect to apply sections 4115.03 to 4115.21 of the Revised Code.~~

(G) Accept aid or contributions from any source of money, property, labor, or other things of value, to be held, used, and applied only for the purposes for which the grants and contributions are made;

(H) Apply for and accept grants, loans, or commitments of guarantee or insurance, including any guarantees of lake facilities authority bonds and notes, from the United States, the state, or other public body or other sources, and provide any consideration which may be required in order to obtain such grants, loans, or contracts of guarantee or insurance;

(I) Procure insurance against loss to the lake facilities authority by reason of damage to its properties resulting from fire, theft, accident, or other casualties, or by reason of its liability for any damages to persons or property occurring in the construction or operation of facilities or areas under its jurisdiction or the conduct of its activities;

(J) Maintain such funds or reserves as it considers necessary for the efficient performance of its duties;

(K) Enforce any covenants, of which the lake facilities authority is the beneficiary, running with the land.

(L) Issue securities for the remediation of an impacted watershed and directly related permanent improvements in compliance with Chapter 133. of the Revised Code, except that such bonds or notes may be issued only pursuant to a vote of the electors residing within the impacted lake district. The net indebtedness incurred by a lake facilities authority pursuant to this division may not exceed one-tenth of one per cent of the total value of all property within the territory comprising the impacted lake district as listed and assessed for taxation.

(M) Issue lake facilities authority revenue bonds beyond the limit of bonded indebtedness provided by law, payable solely from revenues as provided in section 353.09 of the Revised Code for the purpose of providing funds to pay costs of any facility or facilities or parts thereof;

(N) Advise and provide input to political subdivisions within the impacted lake district with respect to zoning and land use planning within the impacted lake district;

(O) Enter into agreements for the management, ownership, possession, or control of lands or property to be used for wetland mitigation banking;

(P) Adopt and modify rules and regulations to carry out the authority granted to the lake facilities authority under this section.

Sec. 1311.25. As used in sections 1311.25 to 1311.32 of the Revised Code:

(A) "Public improvement" means any construction, reconstruction, improvement, enlargement, alteration, demolition, or repair of a building, highway, drainage system, water system, road, street, alley, sewer, ditch, sewage disposal plant, water works, and any other structure or work of any nature by a public authority.

(B) "Public authority" includes the state, and a county, township, municipal corporation, school district, or other political subdivision of the state, and any public agency, authority, board, commission, instrumentality, or special district of or in the state or a county, township, municipal corporation, school district, or other political subdivision of the state, and any officer or agent thereof.

(C) "Material supplier" includes any person by whom any materials are furnished in furtherance of a public improvement.

(D) "Laborer" includes any mechanic, worker, artisan, or other individual who performs labor or work in furtherance of any public improvement.

(E) "Subcontractor" includes any person who undertakes to construct, alter, erect, improve, repair, demolish, remove, dig, or drill any part of any public improvement under a contract with any person other than the public authority.

(F) "Principal contractor" includes any person who undertakes to construct, alter, erect, improve, repair, demolish, remove, dig, or drill any part of any public improvement under a contract with a public authority.

(G) "Materials" means all products and substances including, without limitation, any gasoline, lubricating oil, petroleum products, powder, dynamite, blasting supplies and other explosives, tools, equipment, or machinery furnished in furtherance of a public improvement.

(H) "Wages" ~~has the same meaning as "prevailing wage" in division (E) of section 4115.03 of the Revised Code~~ means the sum of the following:

(1) The basic hourly rate of pay;

(2) The rate of contribution irrevocably made by a contractor or subcontractor to a trustee or to a third person pursuant to a fund, plan, or program;

(3) The rate of costs to the contractor or subcontractor, which may be reasonably anticipated in providing the following fringe benefits to laborers and mechanics pursuant to an enforceable commitment to carry out a financially responsible plan or program, which was communicated in writing to the laborers and mechanics affected:

(a) Medical or hospital care or insurance to provide such;

(b) Pensions on retirement or death or insurance to provide such;

(c) Compensation for injuries or illnesses resulting from occupational activities if it is in addition to that coverage required by Chapters 4121. and 4123. of the Revised Code;

(d) Supplemental unemployment benefits that are in addition to those required by Chapter 4141. of the Revised Code;

(e) Life insurance;

(f) Disability and sickness insurance;

(g) Vacation and holiday pay;

(h) Defraying of costs for apprenticeship or other similar training programs that are beneficial only to the laborers and mechanics affected;

(i) Other bona fide fringe benefits.

(I) "Notice of commencement" means the notice specified in section 1311.252 of the Revised Code.

(J) "Notice of furnishing" means the notice specified in section 1311.261 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 1506.44. (A) A board of county commissioners may use a loan obtained under division (C) of this section to provide financial assistance to any person who owns real property in a coastal erosion area and who has received a permit under section 1506.40 of the Revised Code to construct an erosion control structure in that coastal erosion area. The board shall enter into an agreement with the person that complies with all of the following requirements:

(1) The agreement shall identify the person's real property for which the erosion control structure is being constructed and shall include a legal description of that property and a reference to the volume and page of the deed record in which the title of that person to that property is recorded.

(2) In accordance with rules adopted by the Ohio water development authority under division (V) of section 6121.04 of the Revised Code for the purposes of division (C) of this section and pursuant to an agreement between the board and the authority under that division, the board shall agree to cause payments to be made by the authority to the contractor hired by the person to construct an erosion control structure in amounts not to exceed the total amount specified in the agreement between the board and the person.

(3) The person shall agree to pay to the board, or to the authority as the assignee pursuant to division (C) of this section, the total amount of the payments plus administrative or other costs of the board or the authority at times, in installments, and bearing interest as specified in the agreement.

The agreement may contain additional provisions that the board determines necessary to safeguard the interests of the county or to comply with an agreement entered into under division (C) of this section.

(B) Upon entering into an agreement under division (A) of this section, the board shall do all of the following:

(1) Cause the agreement to be recorded in the county deed records in the office of the county recorder of the county in

which the real property is situated. Failure to record the agreement does not affect the validity of the agreement or the collection of any amounts due under the agreement.

(2) Establish by resolution an erosion control repayment fund into which shall be deposited all amounts collected under division (B)(3) of this section. Moneys in that fund shall be used by the board for the repayment of the loan and for administrative or other costs of the board or the authority as specified in an agreement entered into under division (C) of this section. If the amount of money in the fund is inadequate to repay the loan when due, the board of county commissioners, by resolution, may advance money from any other fund in order to repay the loan if that use of the money from the other fund is not in conflict with law. If the board so advances money in order to repay the loan, the board subsequently shall reimburse each fund from which the board advances money with moneys from the erosion control repayment fund.

(3) Bill and collect all amounts when due under the agreement entered into under division (A) of this section. The board shall certify amounts not paid when due to the county auditor, who shall enter the amounts on the real property tax list and duplicate against the property identified under division (A)(1) of this section. The amounts not paid when due shall be a lien on that property from the date on which the amounts are placed on the tax list and duplicate and shall be collected in the same manner as other taxes.

(C) A board may apply to the authority for a loan for the purpose of entering into agreements under division (A) of this section. The loan shall be for an amount and on the terms established in an agreement between the board and the authority.

The board may assign any agreements entered into under division (A) of this section to the authority in order to provide for the repayment of the loan and may pledge any lawfully available revenues to the repayment of the loan, provided that no moneys raised by taxation shall be obligated or pledged by the board for the repayment of the loan. Any agreement with the authority pursuant to this division is not subject to Chapter 133. of the Revised Code or any requirements or limitations established in that chapter.

(D) The authority, as assignee of any agreement pursuant to division (C) of this section, may enforce and compel the board and the county auditor by mandamus pursuant to Chapter 2731. of the Revised Code to comply with division (B) of this section in a timely manner.

(E) The construction of an erosion control structure by a contractor hired by an individual homeowner, group of individual homeowners, or homeowners association that enters into an agreement with a board under division (A) of this section ~~is not a public improvement, as defined in section 4115.03 of the Revised Code, and~~ is not subject to competitive bidding or public bond laws.

Sec. 1509.071. (A) When the chief of the division of oil and gas resources management finds that an owner has failed to comply with a final nonappealable order issued or compliance agreement entered into under section 1509.04, the restoration requirements of section 1509.072, plugging requirements of section 1509.12, or permit provisions of section 1509.13 of the Revised Code, or rules and orders relating thereto, the chief shall make a finding of that fact and declare any surety bond filed to ensure compliance with those sections and rules forfeited in the amount set by rule of the chief. The chief thereupon shall certify the total forfeiture to the attorney general, who shall proceed to collect the amount of the forfeiture. In addition, the chief may require an owner, operator, producer, or other person who forfeited a surety bond to post a new surety bond in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars for a single well, thirty thousand dollars for two wells, or fifty thousand dollars for three or more wells.

In lieu of total forfeiture, the surety or owner, at the surety's or owner's option, may cause the well to be properly plugged and abandoned and the area properly restored or pay to the treasurer of state the cost of plugging and abandonment.

(B)(1) All moneys collected because of forfeitures of bonds as provided in this section shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the oil and gas well fund created in section 1509.02 of the Revised Code.

For purposes of promoting the competent management and conservation of the state's oil and natural gas resources and the proper and lawful plugging of historic oil and gas wells for which there is no known responsible owner, the chief annually shall spend not less than thirty per cent of the revenue credited to the oil and gas well fund during the previous fiscal year for both of the following purposes:

(a) In accordance with division (E) of this section, to plug idle and orphaned wells or to restore the land surface properly as required in section 1509.072 of the Revised Code;

(b) In accordance with division (F) of this section, to correct conditions that the chief reasonably has determined are causing imminent health or safety risks at an idle and orphaned well or a well for which the owner cannot be contacted in order to initiate a corrective action within a reasonable period of time as determined by the chief.

(2) Expenditures from the fund shall be made only for lawful purposes. In addition, expenditures from the fund shall not be made to purchase real property or to remove a dwelling in order to access a well.

The director of budget and management, in consultation with the chief, shall establish an accounting code for purposes of tracking expenditures made as required under this division.

(C)(1) If a landowner discovers an idle and orphaned well or abandoned well on the landowner's real property and the landowner is not the owner of the well, the landowner may report the existence of the well in writing to the chief.

(2) If the chief receives a written report from a landowner of the existence of an idle and orphaned well, the chief shall inspect the well not later than thirty days after the date of receipt of the landowner's report.

(3) The chief shall establish a scoring matrix for use in determining the priority of plugging wells or restoring land surfaces at idle and orphaned well sites for purposes of this section. The matrix shall include a classification system that categorizes idle and orphaned wells as distressed-high priority, moderate-medium priority, and maintenance-low priority.

(4) The chief shall use the matrix developed under division (C)(3) of this section to prioritize plugging and land restoration projects under this section.

(D)(1) Upon determining that a well is an idle and orphaned well, the chief shall do all of the following:

(a) Make a reasonable attempt to determine from the records in the office of the county recorder of the county in which the well is located the identity of the current owner of the land on which the well is located, the identity of each person owning a right or interest in the oil or gas mineral interests, and the identities of the persons having a lien upon any of the equipment appurtenant to the well. For purposes of division (D)(1)(a) of this section, the chief is not required to review records in the office of the county recorder that are older than forty years from the date on which the chief made the determination that the well is an idle and orphaned well.

(b) Mail notice to each person identified in division (D)(1)(a) of this section;

(c) Include in the notice to each person having a lien upon any equipment appurtenant to the well, a statement informing the person that the well is to be plugged and offering the person the opportunity to remove that equipment from the well site at the person's own expense in order to avoid forfeiture of the equipment to this state;

(d) Publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the well is located that the well is to be plugged.

(2) If the current address of a person identified in division (D)(1)(a) of this section cannot be determined, or if a notice provided by mail to a person under division (D)(1)(b) of this section is returned undeliverable, the notice published under division (D)(1)(d) of this section constitutes sufficient notice to the person.

(3) If none of the persons described in division (D)(1)(a)

of this section removes equipment from the well within thirty days after the mailing of the notice or publication in a newspaper of general circulation, whichever is later, all equipment appurtenant to the well is hereby declared to be forfeited to this state without compensation and without the necessity for any action by the state for use to defray the cost of plugging the well and restoring the land surface at the well site.

(E) The chief may expend money from the oil and gas well fund for the purpose of division (B)(1)(a) of this section, and such expenditures shall be made in accordance with either of the following:

(1) The chief may make expenditures pursuant to contracts entered into by either the chief or another agency of the state with persons who agree to furnish all of the materials, equipment, work, and labor as specified and provided in such a contract for activities associated with the restoration or plugging of a well as determined by the chief. If another agency of the state enters into the contract, the chief shall prepare the scope of work for the restoration or plugging of the well. The activities may include excavation to uncover a well, geophysical methods to locate a buried well when clear evidence of leakage from the well exists, cleanout of wellbores to remove material from a failed plugged well, plugging operations, installation of vault and vent systems, including associated engineering certifications and permits, restoration of property, and repair of damage to property that is caused by such activities. The chief shall not make expenditures for salaries, maintenance, equipment, or other administrative purposes, except for costs directly attributed to the plugging of an idle and orphaned well. Agents or employees of persons contracting with

the chief for a restoration or plugging project may enter upon any land, public or private, on which the well is located for the purpose of performing the work. Prior to such entry, the chief shall give to the following persons written notice of the existence of a contract for a project to restore a location or plug a well, the names of the persons with whom the contract is made, and the date that the project will commence: the owner of the well, the owner of the land upon which the well is located, and, if the well is located in the same township as or in a township adjacent to the excavations and workings of a mine and the owner or lessee of that mine has provided written notice identifying those townships to the chief at any time during the immediately preceding three years, the owner or lessee of the mine. The chief may include in the notice to the owner or lessee of the mine additional information, such as authorization to plug an idle and orphaned well under section 1509.151 of the Revised Code.

(2)(a) The owner of the land on which a well is located who has received notice under division (D)(1)(b) of this section may plug the well and be reimbursed by the division of oil and gas resources management for the reasonable cost of plugging the well. In order to plug the well, the landowner shall submit an application to the chief on a form prescribed by the chief and approved by the technical advisory council on oil and gas created in section 1509.38 of the Revised Code. The application, at a minimum, shall require the landowner to provide the same information as is required to be included in the application for a permit to plug and abandon under section 1509.13 of the Revised Code. The application shall be accompanied by a copy of a proposed contract to plug the well prepared by a contractor regularly engaged in the business of plugging oil and gas wells.

The proposed contract shall require the contractor to furnish all of the materials, equipment, work, and labor necessary to plug the well properly and shall specify the price for doing the work, including a credit for the equipment appurtenant to the well that was forfeited to the state through the operation of division (D)(3) of this section. The contractor shall be insured and bonded. Expenditures under division (E)(2)(a) of this section shall be consistent with the expenditures for activities described in division (E)(1) of this section. The application constitutes an application for a permit to plug the well for the purposes of section 1509.13 of the Revised Code and the applicant is not required to submit the fee otherwise required under that section.

(b) Within thirty days after receiving an application and accompanying proposed contract under division (E)(2)(a) of this section, the chief shall determine whether the plugging would comply with the applicable requirements of this chapter and applicable rules adopted and orders issued under it and whether the cost of the plugging under the proposed contract is reasonable. If the chief determines that the proposed plugging would comply with those requirements and that the proposed cost of the plugging is reasonable, the chief shall notify the landowner of that determination and issue to the landowner a permit to plug the well under section 1509.13 of the Revised Code. Upon approval of the application and proposed contract, the ownership of the equipment appurtenant to the well is transferred to the landowner. The chief may disapprove an application submitted under division (E)(2)(a) of this section if the chief determines that the proposed plugging would not comply with the applicable requirements of this chapter and applicable rules adopted and orders issued under it, that the cost of the plugging under the proposed contract is unreasonable, or that the proposed contract is not a bona fide, arm's length contract.

(c) After receiving the chief's notice of the approval of the application and permit to plug and abandon a well under division (E)(2)(b) of this section, the landowner shall enter into the proposed contract to plug the well.

(d) Upon determining that the plugging has been completed in compliance with the applicable requirements of this chapter and applicable rules adopted and orders issued under it, the chief shall pay the contractor for the cost of the plugging and restoration as set forth in the proposed contract approved by the chief. The payment shall be paid from the oil and gas well fund. If the chief determines that the plugging was not completed in accordance with the applicable requirements, the chief shall not pay the contractor for the cost of the plugging, and the landowner or the contractor, as applicable, promptly shall transfer back to this state title to and possession of the equipment appurtenant to the well that previously was transferred to the landowner under division (E)(2)(b) of this section. If any such equipment was removed from the well during the plugging and sold, the landowner shall pay to the chief the proceeds from the sale of the equipment, and the chief promptly shall pay the moneys so received to the treasurer of state for deposit into the oil and gas well fund.

The chief may establish an annual limit on the number of wells that may be plugged under division (E)(2) of this section or an annual limit on the expenditures to be made under that division. The chief may reject an application submitted under division (E)(2) of this section if the chief determines that the plugging of other wells take priority.

As used in division (E)(2) of this section, "plug" and "plugging" include the plugging of the well, installation of a vault and vent, restoration, and the restoration of the land surface disturbed by the plugging.

(F)(1) Expenditures from the oil and gas well fund for the purpose of division (B)(1)(b) of this section may be made pursuant to contracts entered into by either the chief or another agency of the state with persons who agree to furnish all of the materials, equipment, work, and labor as specified and provided in such a contract. The competitive bidding requirements of Chapter 153. of the Revised Code do not apply if the chief reasonably determines that a situation exists requiring immediate action for the correction of the applicable health or safety risk. A contract or purchase of materials for purposes of addressing the emergency situation is not subject to division (B) of section 127.16 of the Revised Code. The chief, designated representatives of the chief, and agents or employees of persons contracting with the chief under this division may enter upon any land, public or private, for the purpose of performing the work.

(2) The chief shall issue an order that requires the owner of a well to pay the actual documented costs of a corrective action that is described in division (B)(1)(b) of this section concerning the well. The chief shall transmit the money so recovered to the treasurer of state who shall deposit the money in the state treasury to the credit of the oil and gas well fund.

(G) Contracts entered into by either the chief or another agency of the state under this section are not subject to ~~any~~

either of the following:

(1) ~~Chapter 4115. of the Revised Code;~~

~~(2)~~ Section 153.54 of the Revised Code;

~~(3)~~ (2) Section 4733.17 of the Revised Code.

(H) The owner of land on which a well is located who has received notice under division (D)(1)(b) of this section, in lieu of plugging the well in accordance with division (E)(2) of this section, may cause ownership of the well to be transferred to an owner who is lawfully doing business in this state and who has met the financial responsibility requirements established under section 1509.07 of the Revised Code, subject to the approval of the chief. The transfer of ownership also shall be subject to the landowner's filing the appropriate forms required under section 1509.31 of the Revised Code and providing to the chief sufficient information to demonstrate the landowner's or owner's right to produce a formation or formations. That information may include a deed, a lease, or other documentation of ownership or property rights.

The chief shall approve or disapprove by order the transfer of ownership of the well. If the chief approves the transfer, the owner is responsible for operating the well in accordance with this chapter and rules adopted under it, including, without limitation, all of the following:

(1) Filing an application with the chief under section 1509.06 of the Revised Code if the owner intends to drill deeper or produce a formation that is not listed in the records of the division for that well;

(2) Taking title to and possession of the equipment appurtenant to the well that has been identified by the chief as

having been abandoned by the former owner;

(3) Complying with all applicable requirements that are necessary to drill deeper, plug the well, or plug back the well.

(I) The chief may engage in cooperative projects under this section with any agency of this state, another state, or the United States; any other governmental agencies; or any state university or college as defined in section 3345.27 of the Revised Code. A contract entered into for purposes of a cooperative project is not subject to division (B) of section 127.16 of the Revised Code.

(J)(1) On or before the close of each calendar quarter, the chief shall submit a written report to the technical advisory council established under section 1509.38 of the Revised Code describing the efforts of the division of oil and gas resources management to plug idle and orphaned wells during the immediately preceding calendar quarter. The chief also shall include in the report all of the following information:

(a) The total number of known idle and orphaned wells in the state and the total number in each county of the state;

(b) The total number of newly discovered idle and orphaned wells during the immediately preceding calendar quarter;

(c) The total number of wells plugged in accordance with this section during the immediately preceding calendar quarter;

(d) The total number of wells plugged in accordance with this section and the estimated average and indirect costs of plugging activities conducted under this section prior to the date of the report;

(e) The number of wells approved for plugging in accordance with this section and the estimated average and indirect costs of plugging activities conducted under this section during the immediately preceding calendar quarter.

(2) Not later than the thirty-first day of March of each year, the chief and the technical advisory council shall jointly provide a report containing, at a minimum, the information required to be included in the quarterly reports during the previous one-year period to all of the following:

(a) The speaker of the house of representatives;

(b) The president of the senate;

(c) The chair of the committee of the house of representatives responsible for energy and natural resources issues;

(d) The chair of the committee of the senate responsible for energy and natural resources issues.

Sec. 1710.02. (A) A special improvement district may be created within the boundaries of any one municipal corporation, any one township, or any combination of contiguous municipal corporations and townships for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for public improvements and public services that benefit the district. A district may be created by petition of the owners of real property within the proposed district, or by an existing qualified nonprofit corporation. If the district is created by an existing qualified nonprofit corporation, the purposes for which the district is created may be supplemental to the other purposes for which the corporation is organized. All territory in a special improvement district shall be contiguous; except that the territory in a special improvement district may be noncontiguous if at least one special energy improvement project or shoreline improvement project is designated for each parcel of real property included within the special improvement district. Additional territory may be added to a special improvement district created under this chapter for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for special energy improvement projects or shoreline improvement projects if at least one special energy improvement project or shoreline improvement project, respectively, is designated for each parcel of real property included within such additional territory and the addition of territory is authorized by the initial plan proposed under division (F) of this section or a plan adopted by the board of directors of the special improvement district under section 1710.06 of the Revised Code.

The district shall be governed by the board of trustees of a nonprofit corporation. This board shall be known as the board of directors of the special improvement district. No special improvement district shall include any church property, or property of the federal or state government or a county, township, or municipal corporation, unless the church or the county, township, or municipal corporation specifically requests in writing that the property be included within the district, or unless the church is a member of the existing qualified nonprofit corporation creating the district at the time the district is created. A shoreline improvement project may extend into the territory of Lake Erie as described in sections 1506.10 and 1506.11 of the Revised Code. However, the state shall remain exempt from any special assessment that may be levied against that territory under section 1710.06 and Chapter 727. of the Revised Code. More than one district may be created within a participating political subdivision, but no real property may be included within more than one district unless the owner of the property files a written consent with the clerk of the legislative authority, the township fiscal officer, or the village clerk, as appropriate. The area of each district shall be contiguous; except that the area of a special improvement district may be noncontiguous if all parcels of real property included within such area contain at least one special energy improvement or shoreline improvement thereon.

(B) Except as provided in division (C) of this section, a district created under this chapter is not a political subdivision. A district created under this chapter shall be considered a public agency under section 102.01 ~~and a public authority under section 4115.03~~ of the Revised Code. Each member of the board of directors of a district, each member's designee or proxy, and each officer and employee of a district shall be considered a public official or employee under section 102.01 of the Revised Code and a public official and public servant under section 2921.42 of the Revised Code. Districts created under this chapter are not subject to sections 121.81 to 121.83 of the Revised Code. Districts created under this chapter are subject to sections 121.22 and 121.23 of the Revised Code.

(C) Each district created under this chapter shall be considered a political subdivision for purposes of section 4905.34 of the Revised Code.

Membership on the board of directors of the district shall not be considered as holding a public office. Directors and their designees shall be entitled to the immunities provided by Chapter 1702. and to the same immunity as an employee under division (A)(6) of section 2744.03 of the Revised Code, except that directors and their designees shall not be entitled to the indemnification provided in section 2744.07 of the Revised Code unless the director or designee is an employee or official of a participating political subdivision of the district and is acting within the scope of the director's or designee's employment or official responsibilities.

District officers and district members and directors and their designees or proxies shall not be required to file a statement with the Ohio ethics commission under section 102.02 of the Revised Code. All records of the district shall be treated as public records under section 149.43 of the Revised Code, except that records of organizations contracting with a district shall not be considered to be public records under section 149.43 or section 149.431 of the Revised Code solely by reason of any contract with a district.

(D) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the nonprofit corporation that governs a district shall be organized in the manner described in Chapter 1702. of the Revised Code. Except in the case of a district created by an existing qualified nonprofit corporation, the corporation's articles of incorporation are required to be approved, as provided in division (E) of this section, by resolution of the legislative authority of each participating political subdivision of the district. A copy of that resolution shall be filed along with the articles of incorporation in the secretary of state's office.

In addition to meeting the requirements for articles of incorporation set forth in Chapter 1702. of the Revised Code, the articles of incorporation for the nonprofit corporation governing a district formed under this chapter shall provide all the following:

(1) The name for the district, which shall include the

name of each participating political subdivision of the district;

(2) A description of the territory within the district, which may be all or part of each participating political subdivision. The description shall be specific enough to enable real property owners to determine if their property is located within the district.

(3) A description of the procedure by which the articles of incorporation may be amended. The procedure shall include receiving approval of the amendment, by resolution, from the legislative authority of each participating political subdivision and filing the approved amendment and resolution with the secretary of state.

(4) The reasons for creating the district, plus an explanation of how the district will be conducive to the public health, safety, peace, convenience, and welfare of the district.

(E) The articles of incorporation for a nonprofit corporation governing a district created under this chapter and amendments to them shall be submitted to the municipal executive, if any, and the legislative authority of each municipal corporation or township in which the proposed district is to be located. Except in the case of a district created by an existing qualified nonprofit corporation, the articles or amendments shall be accompanied by a petition signed either by the owners of at least sixty per cent of the front footage of all real property located in the proposed district that abuts upon any street, alley, public road, place, boulevard, parkway, park entrance, easement, or other existing public improvement within the proposed district, excluding church property or property owned by the state, county, township, municipal, or federal government, unless a church, county, township, or municipal corporation has specifically requested in writing that the property be included in the district, or by the owners of at least seventy-five per cent of the area of all real property located within the proposed district, excluding church property or property owned by the state, county, township, municipal, or federal government, unless a church, county, township, or municipal corporation has specifically requested in writing that the property be included in the district. Pursuant to Section 2o of Article VIII, Ohio Constitution, the petition required under this division may be for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for special energy improvement projects or shoreline improvement projects, and, in such case, is determined to be in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 2o of Article VIII, Ohio Constitution. Except as provided in division (H) of this section, if a special improvement district is being created under this chapter for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for special energy improvement projects or shoreline improvement projects, the petition required under this division shall be signed by one hundred per cent of the owners of the area of all real property located within the proposed special improvement district, at least one special energy improvement project or shoreline improvement project shall be designated for each parcel of real property within the special improvement district, and the special improvement district may include any number of parcels of real property as determined by the legislative authority of each participating political subdivision in which the proposed special improvement district is to be located. For purposes of determining compliance with these requirements, the area of the district, or the front footage and ownership of property, shall be as shown in the most current records available at the county recorder's office and the county engineer's office sixty days prior to the date on which the petition is filed.

Each municipal corporation or township with which the petition is filed has sixty days to approve or disapprove, by resolution, the petition, including the articles of incorporation. In the case of a district created by an existing qualified nonprofit corporation, each municipal corporation or township has sixty days to approve or disapprove the creation of the district after the corporation submits the articles of incorporation or amendments thereto. This chapter does not prohibit or restrict the rights of municipal corporations under Article XVIII of the Ohio Constitution or the right of the municipal legislative authority to impose reasonable conditions in a resolution of approval. The acquisition, installation, equipping, and improvement of a special energy improvement project under this chapter shall not supersede any local zoning, environmental, or similar law or regulation. In addition, all activities associated with a shoreline improvement project that is implemented under this chapter shall comply with all applicable local zoning requirements, all local, state, and federal environmental laws and regulations, and all applicable requirements established in Chapter 1506. of the Revised Code and rules adopted under it.

(F) Persons proposing creation and operation of the district may propose an initial plan for public services or public improvements that benefit all or any part of the district. Any initial plan shall be submitted as part of the petition proposing creation of the district or, in the case of a district created by an existing qualified nonprofit corporation, shall be submitted with the articles of incorporation or amendments thereto.

An initial plan may include provisions for the following:

(1) Creation and operation of the district and of the nonprofit corporation to govern the district under this chapter;

(2) Hiring employees and professional services;

(3) Contracting for insurance;

(4) Purchasing or leasing office space and office equipment;

(5) Other actions necessary initially to form, operate, or organize the district and the nonprofit corporation to govern the district;

(6) A plan for public improvements or public services that benefit all or part of the district, which plan shall comply with the requirements of division (A) of section 1710.06 of the Revised Code and may include, but is not limited to, any of the permissive provisions described in the fourth sentence of that division or listed in divisions (A)(1) to (7) of that section;

(7) If the special improvement district is being created under this chapter for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for special energy improvement projects or shoreline improvement projects, provision for the addition of territory to the special improvement district.

After the initial plan is approved by all municipal corporations and townships to which it is submitted for approval and the district is created, each participating subdivision shall levy a special assessment within its boundaries to pay for the costs of the initial plan. The levy shall be for no more than ten years from the date of the approval of the initial plan; except that if the proceeds of the levy are to be used to pay the costs of a special energy improvement project or shoreline improvement project, the levy of a special assessment shall be for no more than thirty years from the date of approval of the initial plan. In the event that additional territory is added to a special improvement district, the special assessment to be levied with respect to such additional territory shall commence not earlier than the date such territory is added and shall be for no more than thirty years from such date. For purposes of levying an assessment for this initial plan, the services or improvements included in the initial plan shall be deemed a special benefit to property owners within the district.

(G) Each nonprofit corporation governing a district under this chapter may do the following:

(1) Exercise all powers of nonprofit corporations granted under Chapter 1702. of the Revised Code that do not conflict with this chapter;

(2) Develop, adopt, revise, implement, and repeal plans for public improvements and public services for all or any part of the district;

(3) Contract with any person, political subdivision as defined in section 2744.01 of the Revised Code, or state agency as defined in section 1.60 of the Revised Code to develop and implement plans for public improvements or public services within the district;

(4) Contract and pay for insurance for the district and for directors, officers, agents, contractors, employees, or members of the district for any consequences of the implementation of any plan adopted by the district or any actions of the district.

The board of directors of a special improvement district may, acting as agent and on behalf of a participating political subdivision, sell, transfer, lease, or convey any special energy improvement project owned by the participating political subdivision upon a determination by the legislative authority thereof that the project is not required to be owned exclusively by the participating political subdivision for its purposes, for uses determined by the legislative authority thereof as those that will promote the welfare of the people of such participating political subdivision; improve the quality of life and the general and economic well-being of the people of the participating political subdivision; better ensure the public health, safety, and welfare; protect water and other natural resources; provide for the conservation and preservation of natural and open areas and farmlands, including by making urban areas more desirable or suitable for development and revitalization; control, prevent, minimize, clean up, or mediate certain contamination of or pollution from lands in the state and water contamination or pollution; or provide for safe and natural areas and resources. The legislative authority of each participating political subdivision shall specify the consideration for such sale, transfer, lease, or conveyance and any other terms thereof. Any determinations made by a legislative authority of a participating political subdivision under this division shall be conclusive.

Any sale, transfer, lease, or conveyance of a special energy improvement project by a participating political subdivision or the board of directors of the special improvement district may be made without advertising, receipt of bids, or other competitive bidding procedures applicable to the participating political subdivision or the special improvement district under Chapter 153. or 735. or section 1710.11 of the Revised Code or other representative provisions of the Revised Code.

(H) The owner of real property that is part of a planned community or a condominium development is deemed to have signed the petitions required under division (E) of this section and division (B) of section 1710.06 of the Revised Code with respect to a special improvement district that is being created for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for shoreline improvement projects if the district and the projects have been approved through an alternative process prescribed by the bylaws, declarations, covenants, and restrictions governing the planned community or condominium development. Such an alternative process may consist of a vote of the owners association or unit owners association, the approval of a specified percentage of property owners, or any other procedure authorized by the bylaws, declarations, covenants, and restrictions governing the planned community or condominium development.

As used in this division, "condominium development" and "unit owners association" have the same meanings as in section 5311.01 of the Revised Code, and "planned community," "owners association," "bylaws," and "declaration" have the same meanings as in section 5312.01 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 5540.03. (A) A transportation improvement district may:

(1) Adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business;

(2) Adopt an official seal;

(3) Sue and be sued in its own name, plead and be impleaded, provided any actions against the district shall be brought in the court of common pleas of the county in which the principal office of the district is located, or in the court of common pleas of the county in which the cause of action arose, and all summonses, exceptions, and notices of every kind shall be served on the district by leaving a copy thereof at its principal office with the secretary-treasurer;

(4) Purchase, construct, maintain, repair, sell, exchange, police, operate, or lease projects;

(5) Issue either or both of the following for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of any project or part thereof:

(a) Transportation improvement district revenue bonds;

(b) Bonds pursuant to Section 13 of Article VIII, Ohio Constitution~~;~~.

(6) Maintain such funds as it considers necessary;

(7) Direct its agents or employees, when properly identified in writing and after at least five days' written notice, to enter upon lands within its jurisdiction to make surveys and examinations preliminary to the location and construction of projects for the district, without liability of the district or its agents or employees except for actual damage done;

(8) Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its functions and the execution of its powers under this chapter;

(9) Employ or retain or contract for the services of

consulting engineers, superintendents, managers, and such other engineers, construction and accounting experts, financial advisers, trustees, marketing, remarketing, and administrative agents, attorneys, and other employees, independent contractors, or agents as are necessary in its judgment and fix their compensation, provided all such expenses shall be payable solely from the proceeds of bonds or from revenues;

(10) Receive and accept from the federal or any state or local government, including, but not limited to, any agency, entity, or instrumentality of any of the foregoing, loans and grants for or in aid of the construction, maintenance, or repair of any project, and receive and accept aid or contributions from any source or person of money, property, labor, or other things of value, to be held, used, and applied only for the purposes for which such loans, grants, and contributions are made. Nothing in division (A)(10) of this section shall be construed as imposing any liability on this state for any loan received by a transportation improvement district from a third party unless this state has entered into an agreement to accept such liability.

(11) Acquire, hold, and dispose of property in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under this chapter;

(12) Establish and collect tolls or user charges for its projects;

(13) Subject to section 5540.18 of the Revised Code, enter into an agreement with a contiguous board of county commissioners other than the board of county commissioners that created the transportation improvement district, for the district to exercise all or any portion of its powers with

respect to a project that is located wholly or partially within the county that is party to the agreement;

(14) Do all acts necessary and proper to carry out the powers expressly granted in this chapter.

(B) Chapters 123., 124., 125., and 153., ~~and 4115.,~~ and sections 9.331 to 9.335 and 307.86 of the Revised Code do not apply to contracts or projects of a transportation improvement district.

Sec. 6117.012. (A) A board of county commissioners may adopt rules requiring owners of property within the district whose property is served by a connection to sewers maintained and operated by the board or to sewers that are connected to interceptor sewers maintained and operated by the board to do any of the following:

(1) Disconnect storm water inflows to sanitary sewers maintained and operated by the board and not operated as a combined sewer, or to connections with those sewers;

(2) Disconnect non-storm water inflows to storm water sewers maintained and operated by the board and not operated as a combined sewer, or to connections with those storm water sewers;

(3) Reconnect or relocate any such disconnected inflows in compliance with board rules and applicable building codes, health codes, or other relevant codes;

(4) Prevent sewer back-ups into properties that have experienced one or more back-ups of sanitary or combined sewers maintained and operated by the board;

(5) Prevent storm water from entering a combined sewer and

causing an overflow or an inflow to a sanitary sewer, which prevention may include projects or programs that separate the storm water from a combined sewer or that utilize a prevention or replacement facility to prevent or minimize storm water from entering a combined sewer or a sanitary sewer.

(B) Any inflow required to be disconnected or any sewer back-up required to be prevented under a rule adopted pursuant to divisions (A)(1) to (4) of this section constitutes a nuisance subject to injunctive relief and abatement pursuant to Chapter 3767. of the Revised Code or as otherwise permitted by law.

(C) A board of county commissioners may use sewer district funds; county general fund moneys; the proceeds of bonds issued under Chapter 133. or 165. of the Revised Code; and, to the extent permitted by their terms, loans, grants, or other moneys from appropriate state or federal funds, for either of the following:

(1) The cost of disconnections, reconnections, relocations, combined sewer overflow prevention, or sewer back-up prevention required by rules adopted pursuant to division (A) of this section, performed by the county or under contract with the county;

(2) Payments to the property owner or a contractor hired by the property owner pursuant to a competitive process established by district rules, for the cost of disconnections, reconnections, relocations, combined sewer overflow prevention, or sewer back-up prevention required by rules adopted pursuant to division (A) of this section after the board, pursuant to its rules, has approved the work to be performed and after the county has received from the property owner a statement

releasing the county from all liability in connection with the disconnections, reconnections, relocations, combined sewer overflow prevention, or sewer back-up prevention.

(D) Except as provided in division (E) of this section, the board of county commissioners shall require in its rules regarding disconnections, reconnections, relocations of sewers, combined sewer overflow prevention, or sewer back-up prevention the reimbursement of moneys expended pursuant to division (C) of this section by either of the following methods:

(1) A charge to the property owner in the amount of the payment made pursuant to division (C) of this section for immediate payment or payment in installments with interest as determined by the board not to exceed ten per cent, which payments may be billed as a separate item with the rents charged to that owner for use of the sewers. The board may approve installment payments for a period of not more than fifteen years. If charges are to be paid in installments, the board shall certify to the county auditor information sufficient to identify each subject parcel of property, the total of the charges to be paid in installments, and the total number of installments to be paid. The auditor shall record the information in the sewer improvement record until these charges are paid in full. Charges not paid when due shall be certified to the county auditor, who shall place the charges upon the real property tax list and duplicate against that property. Those charges shall be a lien on the property from the date they are placed on the tax list and duplicate and shall be collected in the same manner as other taxes.

(2) A special assessment levied against the property, payable in the number of years the board determines, not to

exceed fifteen years, with interest as determined by the board not to exceed ten per cent. The board shall certify the assessments to the county auditor, stating the amount and time of payment. The auditor shall record the information in the county sewer improvement record, showing separately the assessments to be collected, and shall place the assessments upon the real property tax list and duplicate for collection. The assessments shall be a lien on the property from the date they are placed on the tax list and duplicate and shall be collected in the same manner as other taxes.

(E) The county may adopt a resolution specifying a maximum amount of the cost of any disconnection, reconnection, relocation, combined sewer overflow prevention, or sewer back-up prevention required pursuant to division (A) of this section that may be paid by the county for each affected parcel of property without requiring reimbursement. That amount may be allowed only if there is a building code, health code, or other relevant code, or a federally imposed or state-imposed consent decree that is filed or otherwise recorded in a court of competent jurisdiction, applicable to the affected parcel that prohibits in the future any inflows, combined sewer overflows, or sewer back-ups not allowed under rules adopted pursuant to division (A)(1), (4), or (5) of this section. The board, by rule, shall establish criteria for determining how much of the maximum amount for each qualifying parcel need not be reimbursed.

(F) ~~Disconnections, reconnections, relocations, combined sewer overflow prevention, or sewer back-up prevention required under this section and performed by a contractor under contract with the property owner shall not be considered a public improvement, and those performed by the county shall be~~

~~considered a public improvement as defined in section 4115.03 of the Revised Code.~~

Disconnections, reconnections, relocations, combined sewer overflow prevention, or sewer back-up prevention required under this section performed by a contractor under contract with the property owner shall not be subject to competitive bidding or public bond laws.

(G) Property owners shall be responsible for maintaining any improvements made or facilities constructed on private property to reconnect or relocate disconnected inflows, for combined sewer overflow prevention, or for sewer back-up prevention pursuant to this section unless a public easement or other agreement exists for the county to maintain that improvement or facility.

(H) A board of county commissioners may provide rate reductions of and credits against charges for the use of sewers to a property owner that implements a project or program that prevents storm water from entering a combined sewer and causing an overflow. Such a project or program may include the use of a prevention or replacement facility to handle storm water that has been separated from a combined sewer. The revised rates or charges shall be collected and paid to the county treasurer in accordance with section 6117.02 of the Revised Code.

Section 2. That existing sections 121.083, 123.281, 164.07, 176.011, 307.022, 307.671, 307.673, 307.674, 307.696, 351.06, 353.03, 1311.25, 1506.44, 1509.071, 1710.02, 5540.03, and 6117.012 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

Section 3. That sections 176.05, 4115.03, 4115.031, 4115.033, 4115.034, 4115.04, 4115.05, 4115.06, 4115.07, 4115.071, 4115.08, 4115.09, 4115.10, 4115.101, 4115.11, 4115.12, 4115.13, 4115.131, 4115.132, 4115.133, 4115.14, 4115.15, 4115.16, 4115.21, 4115.99, and 6121.061 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

Section 4. Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act do not apply to contracts governed by the sections being amended and repealed by Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act that are entered into before the effective date of this act.