
SPORTS EVENTS GRANTS



Support SB 271 & HB 531

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Removes limits on sports events grants

These bills would remove the limitations that are currently in place for the amount of money that can be awarded to fund an international or national competition in the athletic pursuits listed in the bill. Currently, the law allows a grant of \$500,000, at maximum, and only allows \$1,000,000 to be awarded in grants for the purpose of sports events each year. More importantly, the bill creates a separate custodial fund, which will directly support these grants, the Sports Event Grant Fund. This fund will be supported by state sales tax revenue and, unlike current law, will not require appropriations for the purpose of sports events grants to be made by the legislature. OACVB supports the bill for the following reasons:

KEY POINTS

- The bill would allow groups looking to attract large-scale events to plan out several years in the future. Currently, sports grants are set in the state budget, allowing only two years to submit proposals to attract large events to Ohio. By creating a grant program that would be funded beyond the two-year scope of a general assembly, the bill would create the opportunity for Ohio communities to bid on All-Star games, drafts, or the NCAA final four.
- Furthermore, the segregation of these funds into a separate, custodial fund means that the legislature does not have the ability to move this money around on an as-needed basis. This gives security to organizers that the money will be present to support an event rather than diverted by the legislature for different purposes after planning has begun and commitments to venues have been made.

