



State Representative Timothy J. DeGeeter

For Immediate Release: Monday, August 4, 2008

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Rep. DeGeeter Introduces Legislation Updating Internet Auction Rules for Non-Chartered Cities

Legislation likely to increase funds for non-chartered municipalities

Columbus, Ohio – State Representative Timothy J. DeGeeter (D-Parma) introduced bipartisan legislation in the Ohio House of Representatives allowing non-chartered municipalities such as Parma to use internet auction sites that limit the auction time to ten days or less.

Currently, cities that are non-chartered and seek to auction city property off on internet auction websites must follow Ohio Revised Code protocol and leave the auction open for at least 15 days. The Ohio Revised Code protocol governing non-chartered cities do not apply to cities that are chartered. Current law for non-chartered cities prohibits them from using the most popular internet auction websites, like E-Bay, who allow auctions to last only 10 days at the most.

“I’m pleased to announce the introduction of this legislation today regarding internet auctions,” Representative DeGeeter said today. “Internet auctions are a popular tool for local governments around Ohio and other States to create revenue by auctioning off city property that is no longer being used. This legislation will go a long way in making it easier for non-chartered cities to use the most popular internet auction websites.”

The internet auction issue had been brought to Representative DeGeeter’s attention by the office of Mayor Dean DePiero, Parma, who expressed concern about being prohibited from using the most popular internet auction websites.

According to research done by Representative DeGeeter and the Legislative Service Commission, it was unclear why past legislation had selected 15 days as the rule governing non-chartered cities and their use of internet auction sites.

“Current Ohio law limits the ability of non-chartered cities to maximize the value of their assets in order to reinvest their funds in services and goods for their communities. This legislation will level the playing field allowing non-chartered cities to use the most profitable internet auction sites and granting them access to the most lucrative auction

markets in the same way home-ruled cities are currently allowed to,” Representative DeGeeter said.

Representative DeGeeter’s legislation is co-sponsored by seven colleagues of his in the Ohio House of Representatives including several Republicans.