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Local Building Departments to Benefit from State Agency Experts

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) Local building departments across Ohio can now contract building department services, such as inspections and plan reviews, with the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Industrial Compliance.

A provision in [House Bill 166](#) allows the Division, which serves as the state's building department, to offer building services to local communities on an as-needed basis. Previously, the Division could only offer services to local communities that use the state as their sole provider for building services.

"This new model provides local building departments more resources to complete inspections and plan reviews," said Geoff Eaton, Division superintendent and chief building official. "Before, if local building departments were in a bind and didn't have a staff member to complete inspections, they couldn't turn to us for help. Now we can be a resource when needed."

Contracting building services with the Division offers local communities a variety of benefits, including:

- **Local inspectors:** State building, plumbing and electrical inspectors are located across the state, making distance a non-issue.
- **Manage project status 24/7:** The Division's online portal allows plans to be submitted, inspections scheduled, documents viewed and payments made online and in real-time.
- **Quick turnaround:** The Division reviews 90 percent of plans within 14 days of receipt – which is less than half the time required by the Ohio Building Code.
- **Remote video inspections:** The Division can conduct inspections remotely, and typically the same day.
- **Peace of mind:** The Division employs exemplary, licensed professionals who ensure a project is completed efficiently, effectively, and in compliance with Ohio Building or Residential codes.

For more information on how your local building department can utilize services offered by the Division of Industrial Compliance, contact Superintendent Geoff Eaton at Geoff.Eaton@com.state.oh.us.

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