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HOUSE OK'S THIRD FRONTIER RENEWAL FOR BALLOT

This week the renewal of one of Ohio's more successful economic development programs, the Third Frontier, moved closer to appearing on the May statewide ballot. By a vote of 85 to 13, the House passed HJR 12, a proposed constitutional amendment authorizing the \$950 million, five-year extension of the Third Frontier. The resolution now moves to the Senate, where there likely will be further changes to the proposal.

Before the full House vote, the House Economic Development Committee favorably recommended a substitute version of the original resolution. The substitute resolution incorporated three amendments pushed by minority Republicans that:

- Reduce the \$1 billion in general obligation bonds to \$950 million;
- Prohibit any grant awards before July 1, 2011; and,
- Require independent, merit-based reviews before approving any grant awards.

The Ohio Chamber submitted written proponent testimony to the committee. Touting its current benefits and future potential, Ohio Chamber assistant vice president of tax & economic policy, Daniel Navin, said renewing the Third Frontier as soon as possible sends a strong message that Ohio has a long-term commitment to researchers, investors and entrepreneurs. He said that substantial progress has been made through the Third Frontier in positioning Ohio for economic recovery and future growth. He concluded that the state must capitalize on the forward momentum and new investment opportunities the program has generated by renewing it as soon as possible. To view the Chamber's testimony, [click here](#).

As the Senate begins consideration of the resolution, lawmakers still must meet a February 3 deadline to place the renewal plan on the May ballot.

Ohio Chamber Staff Contact: Daniel Navin, dnavin@ohiochamber.com

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