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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY AUDITOR ANNOUNCES RESIDENTIAL RENTAL  
REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT**

Neighborhood groups and communities will gladly welcome a new state law now in effect that requires residential rental property owners to register their contact information with the County Auditor. Champaign County Auditor Bonnie Warman announced today that forms are now available at the Auditor's Office and will soon be posted on the Auditor's web site, ([www.co.champaign.oh.us/auditor](http://www.co.champaign.oh.us/auditor)).

HB 294 mandates that all residential rental property owners must now register their name, address and telephone number, along with the street address and parcel number of the property. The new law, effective September 28<sup>th</sup>, also requires that the registered owner must update any change in the provided information within ten days after any change occurs. If the owner lives outside the state of Ohio, they must designate an agent within Ohio as their contact person. Any changes in ownership must also be filed with the county auditor within 10 days.

"Up till now, many communities have been frustrated by a lack of contact information for abandoned property owners and absentee landlords. The required information will aid police and fire departments, along with other local authorities in their efforts to hold these people accountable for the condition of their properties, or in the case of an emergency," said Mrs. Warman.

Owners who fail to comply with the registration process can be prosecuted and fined.

The Ohio Apartment Association sought the support of the County Auditors to address a growing concern in some communities that the owners of rental property were not always easily contacted.

The new requirement will centralize the information pertaining to rental properties in one location. In the past, different municipalities had different requirements and different forms. Now there will be one county wide, uniform standard and depository. This rental registration information will be a useful tool for our communities.

Mrs. Warman said, "We are committed to ensuring the highest possible compliance with this program, streamlining the filing process and making it accessible to our community."