



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Nick Thomas

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 232 of the 129th G.A.](#)

Date: December 5, 2011

Status: As Passed by the House

Sponsor: Reps. Letson and O'Brien

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Requires county facilities review boards to inspect facilities that provide services to adult wards of the probate court

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill requires county facilities review boards to inspect and oversee facilities that provide services to adult wards of the probate court. For some county boards, this could cause an increase in reimbursement expenses. However, under current law unchanged by the bill, these reimbursements are capped at \$1,000 per board member per year. Because these boards consist of six members, the maximum allowable reimbursement amount is \$6,000.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill expands the authority of a county facilities review board (FRB) to include any facility where an adult ward of the probate county resides or receives services. County FRBs currently review county homes, county jails, municipal prisons, and children's homes. Their findings are compiled and submitted to county government officials annually. Each board is composed of six members. Board members are not paid for their services, but are compensated for actual expenses, up to \$1,000 annually.

Probate courts are responsible for those persons whom the courts deem unable to care for and protect themselves, such as individuals with severe developmental disabilities and minors. Probate courts can order and authorize services for adult wards, including permanent residence in a nursing home or partial care at adult day-care centers. Probate courts in large counties can be responsible for several thousand guardianship cases each year. For example, Franklin County's Probate Court is responsible for approximately 7,000 guardianship cases annually. According to the 2007 Economic Census, there are approximately 3,078 nursing or residential care facilities in Ohio.

Because the bill expands the purview of the FRBs to include facilities that house adult wards of the probate court, the bill could require boards to incur higher costs for reimbursing board members for their expenses. As there are six members on each board, and because the cap on reimbursements is \$1,000 per member annually, the maximum amount available for reimbursement is \$6,000 each year. Depending on how many facilities in each county house adult wards of the probate court, expenses for some FRBs could increase, up to the \$6,000 cap.