



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [S.B. 291 of the 130th G.A.](#)

Date: April 8, 2014

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sens. Manning and LaRose

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Creates a study committee to explore alternative funding mechanisms for Ohio's maritime ports

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill creates the Maritime Port Funding Study Committee to explore alternative funding mechanisms for Ohio's maritime ports for FY 2016 and thereafter. The committee is required to compile a report of its findings on or before January 1, 2015.
- The bill specifies that the members appointed to the Maritime Port Funding Study Committee are not entitled to additional compensation as a result of their appointment.
- The Legislative Service Commission is to provide staff support to the legislative members of the study committee. Any additional cost for providing these services and preparing the report would be absorbed within the Legislative Service Commission's current budget.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill creates the Maritime Port Funding Study Committee tasked with finding a long-term funding solution for Ohio's operating maritime ports. The committee is to be composed of nine members. Legislative members include two members of the Senate, one from each party and both appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members of the House of Representatives, one from each party and both appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Five members are to be appointed by the Governor, including three whom represent the state's maritime port interests from each of the state's largest operating ports in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Toledo; one from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) knowledgeable about maritime ports, and one from JobsOhio. Members of the committee are not entitled to compensation for serving on the committee, but may continue to receive the compensation and benefits accruing from their regular offices or employments.

The Maritime Port Funding Study Committee is to examine alternative funding mechanisms for maritime ports in Ohio that may be used beginning in FY 2016. The committee's work is to conclude with a report of its findings, delivered no later than January 1, 2015, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. After submitting the report, the study committee shall cease to exist.

The bill requires the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) to provide the legislative members of the committee with the technical and clerical help necessary for those members to fulfill their responsibilities. LSC does not anticipate additional expenses to carry out these duties; rather, the costs would likely be absorbed as part of the ongoing expenses that LSC incurs for conducting business. Presumably, the maritime port interests and ODOT might also incur some additional expense for supporting the study committee, as would the JobsOhio Corporation.