



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Am. Sub. S.B. 344 of the 130th G.A. **Date:** December 16, 2014

Status: As Passed by the Senate **Sponsor:** Sen. Seitz

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Transparency in contracts between the state and private attorneys

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill: (1) prescribes the requirements and procedures for the state to enter into a contingency fee contract with a private attorney to represent the state in a legal matter, and (2) requires the Attorney General to submit an annual report to certain legislative leaders describing the use of private attorney contracts in the preceding fiscal year.

In any given year, the Attorney General enters into very few contingency fee contracts.¹ The bill's requirements and procedures for entering into such contracts will create minimal additional work for the Attorney General's Office. This work can be absorbed utilizing existing staffing and funding levels. The required annual report will not generate any discernible costs either, as it can be produced with minimal time and effort and incorporated into current operations.

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¹The Attorney General serves as legal counsel to all statewide elected officials, the Ohio General Assembly, and all state departments, agencies, boards, and commissions. As part of this duty, the Attorney General has the authority to contract with private attorneys, or special counsel, to provide this legal representation on behalf of the state.