



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Am. S.J.R. 1 of the 130th G.A. **Date:** June 26, 2013
Status: As Reported by Senate State Government Oversight & Reform **Sponsor:** Sens. Sawyer and LaRose

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Proposes changes to the method of drawing General Assembly and Congressional district lines

State Fiscal Highlights

- The resolution proposes changes to the way the state's General Assembly and Congressional districts are drawn. The costs of developing and approving these redistricting plans are to be covered by appropriations made by the General Assembly. Currently, the redistricting expenses are paid from GRF appropriation item 035407, Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, under the budget of the Legislative Service Commission.
- Appropriations made to the Controlling Board under GRF appropriation item 911401, Ballot Advertising Costs, are used to reimburse the Secretary of State for expenses incurred in advertising ballot issues statewide. The amounts of the reimbursements approved by the Controlling Board are transferred to the Statewide Ballot Advertising Fund (Fund 5FH0) under the Secretary of State's budget.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Overview of the resolution

The resolution proposes a statewide ballot issue changing the way the state's General Assembly and Congressional districts are drawn under an entity referred to as the Ohio Redistricting Commission. The Commission would consist of the Governor, Auditor of State, Secretary of State, one person appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one person appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, one person appointed by the President of the Senate, and one person appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate. The resolution also outlines when the Ohio Redistricting Commission is to convene and the procedures to be used in developing redistricting plans. Most notably, under the arrangement in the resolution, the proposed plans for redistricting General Assembly and Congressional districts must be made public, and any plan that is adopted must be approved by a five-member majority, including at least one member of the minority party. Details concerning the manner in which the Ohio Redistricting Commission is to conduct business can be found in the LSC Bill Analysis. The potential costs associated with the resolution are briefly described below.

Funding for the Ohio Redistricting Commission

The resolution requires the General Assembly to appropriate sufficient funding for the Ohio Redistricting Commission to carry out its functions. While this funding requirement exists under the current procedure used to redistrict General Assembly and Congressional districts, it is uncertain whether these costs would increase or decrease under the arrangement proposed in this resolution. Under the current process, redistricting expenses are paid for by GRF appropriation item 035407, Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, within the budget of the Legislative Service Commission. In FY 2012, the Task Force incurred expenses of approximately \$666,000 for redistricting purposes. For FY 2013, \$400,000 was appropriated for these activities.

Ballot advertising costs

If both houses of the General Assembly approve the resolution and the issue was to appear on the statewide ballot, the Secretary of State would incur costs for ballot advertising under Section 1 of Article XVI of the Ohio Constitution. Section 1 requires that the ballot language, the explanations, and the arguments, if any, be published once a week for three consecutive weeks preceding an election in at least one newspaper of general circulation in each county of the state where a newspaper is published. The ballot advertising costs that the Secretary of State incurs are paid for on a reimbursement basis from GRF moneys appropriated to the Controlling Board, specifically GRF item 911441, Ballot Advertising Costs. Once authorized, the reimbursable amounts are transferred by the Controlling Board to the Statewide Ballot Advertising Fund (Fund 5FH0) under the

Secretary of State's budget. Ballot advertising expenses incurred statewide depend on the length of the ballot language. As an example, the Secretary of State spent \$446,218 in ballot advertising costs for the two issues that appeared on the November 6, 2012 General Election ballot, specifically the Constitutional Modernization Commission (State Issue 1) and Redistricting (State Issue 2).

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