



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 263 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Reported by Senate Health, Human Services, & Medicaid

Sponsor: Rep. Lanese

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Permits dogs in outdoor dining areas

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- Local boards of health could experience a minimal increase in costs to investigate complaints, to possibly adjust rules, and to inform restaurant establishments of the bill's provisions.
- The departments of Health and Agriculture could realize a minimal increase in administrative costs to adopt rules.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill generally authorizes a retail food establishment or food service operation to allow a person to bring a dog in an outdoor dining area of the establishment or operation. However, the bill prohibits a retail food establishment or food service operation from refusing to allow a dog in an outdoor dining area of the establishment or operation if the dog is a service dog. The bill also prohibits a person from bringing a dog in an outdoor dining area if the dog is not properly vaccinated in accordance with state and local laws. The directors of Agriculture and Health are required to adopt rules allowing dogs in outdoor dining areas and must include authorization for the directors to prohibit dogs in an outdoor dining area during a public health emergency.

If an establishment or operation allows a person to bring a dog in an outdoor dining area, the establishment or operation must adopt a policy that requires patrons to control their dog, not allow the person to take the dog through any of the indoor areas, and complies with all sanitation standards established in the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code and any other standards established under the retail food – food safety chapter.

Local boards of health could experience an increase in costs to investigate any complaints related to the bill's provisions or to enforce a prohibition against dogs in an outdoor dining area during a public health emergency. These costs would likely be minimal, but would depend on the number and scope of complaints, public health emergencies, and the number of operations and establishments that allow dogs on patios. Boards could also realize a minimal increase in costs to adjust rules and inform establishments of this change in the law.

The departments of Agriculture and Health could realize a minimal increase in administrative costs to adopt rules required by the bill.