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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 355
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 355's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Civil Justice

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Wilkin and Swearingen

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill's effect on state and local governmental entities operating camps is likely to be twofold: (1) a potential minimal at most one-time cost to comply with the bill's signage requirement, and (2) a potential savings in terms of litigation and settlement expenditures that might otherwise have occurred under current law.
- The bill's civil immunity provision may prevent an occasional civil action from being filed or allow such an action to be disposed of more quickly, resulting in some reduction in the caseloads and expenditures of local trial courts that is not readily quantifiable.

Detailed Analysis

With regard to camp operators, the bill provides a qualified immunity from civil liability for any harm to a camper or visitor that results from a risk inherent to camping, and requires a clearly visible sign to be posted at or near each entrance to the campground notifying those entering that the operator is not liable for certain harm.

The qualified immunity may have one or both of the following effects on the common pleas, municipal, and county courts that have subject matter jurisdiction over civil cases. It may: (1) prevent the filing of certain civil actions against camp operators, or (2) expedite their resolution subsequent to the finding of the court that a camp operator in the circumstances at hand is protected from being sued for harm. Such outcomes may result in an expenditure savings in a court's caseload that is not readily quantifiable in terms of dollars and cents. In the case of a state or local governmental entity that is a camp operator, as the qualified immunity may reduce their exposure to legal action, the potential is created to reduce the amounts that such an entity might otherwise have expended to litigate and settle in certain circumstances.

State and local governmental entities operating camps may incur minimal at most one-time costs to post the required sign at each entrance to the campground. There may be occasional subsequent minimal at most costs to remove and replace signs as necessary.