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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

S.B. 167
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 167's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Yuko

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Erie County Dog Warden could incur one-time costs of up to a few thousand dollars to acquire and install a secure storage locker for requisite drugs used to euthanize domestic animals.
- Additionally, the Dog Warden could incur recurring costs every two years to be licensed by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, as well as to procure drugs for the euthanasia of domestic animals and to train staff to euthanize domestic animals by injection.

Detailed Analysis

Costs to Erie County Dog Warden

The Erie County Dog Warden could incur a slight increase in expenditures to comply with the bill's prohibition against using a carbon monoxide chamber or any other type of gas chamber to euthanize certain domestic animals.¹ In Ohio, the Erie County Dog Warden is the only known entity to employ a gas chamber for euthanizing domestic animals. According to the Erie County Dog Warden, it is used only to euthanize domestic dogs that cannot be placed for adoption due to illness, injury, temperament, or other reason, or to euthanize nuisance wildlife. Continuing law allows the continued use of the gas chamber for the destruction of wildlife; however, under the bill, Erie County would have to employ an alternate method of euthanasia for domestic animals such as dogs.

¹ Continuing law allows the use of gas chambers in the slaughtering of livestock or for the taking of any wild animal when taken in accordance with the law governing hunting and fishing.

The commonly accepted alternative method is euthanasia by injection. To carry out euthanasia using this method, the Dog Warden would incur one-time costs to install a secure storage locker for the necessary drugs, as well as recurring costs for biennial licensing under the Ohio Board of Pharmacy. There would also be some costs related to staff training to administer the euthanasia drugs, and for the procurement of the requisite drugs. LBO estimates that costs for secured storage lockers could range from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars depending on the model of locker chosen. Licensing fees paid to the Board of Pharmacy and deposited into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90) are \$120 every two years. The costs to procure the necessary drugs could vary and are difficult to predict. Because the Erie County Dog Warden's staff is already trained to administer euthanasia drugs, staff training costs are expected to be minimal.

Prosecution of violations

Under the bill, violations of its prohibition on using gas chambers to euthanize domestic animals is a fourth degree misdemeanor, punishable by fines of up to \$250 and jail time of not more than 30 days. While municipal and county courts could incur new costs to adjudicate additional cases the number of new cases would likely be few and any costs would likely be negligible at most. Any new costs could be at least partially offset by fines imposed under the bill. Convictions involving jail time would likely be extremely rare, thus county sheriffs would not likely incur new costs to house additional inmates.