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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 618**  
**133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 618's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Becker

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- The fiscal impact of the bill will depend on the orders in place at the time of the bill's effective date; however, requiring current orders to be advisory only could result in decreased enforcement costs to local law enforcement and health authorities.
- The General Assembly could realize an increase in administrative costs to approve orders or actions. These costs would likely be absorbed with existing staff and resources.

### **Detailed Analysis**

#### **Contagious disease orders and ODH authority**

The bill specifies that orders issued by the Governor and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to prevent the spread of contagious or infectious diseases are advisory only, unless approved by the General Assembly. In the case of an order issued by ODH, the bill prohibits the order from including a state of emergency declaration. The bill also specifies that any order issued by the Director of Health for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases in effect on the bill's effective date has no legal effect. Any such order becomes advisory only as of the bill's effective date.

The bill requires the approval of the General Assembly before ODH may (1) supervise matters relating to the preservation of the life and health of the people and (2) declare and enforce quarantine or isolation. The bill also prohibits the Director from taking action to control or suppress such a disease or pandemic condition until the Director has the approval of the General Assembly.

## **Orders affecting the conduct of an election**

The bill specifies that the result of an enemy attack is the only circumstance in which a state or local election may be postponed or canceled and that an election can only be conducted in a manner prescribed by the Revised Code. Additionally, the bill prohibits ODH and boards of health from issuing any order or rule that affects the conduct of an election.

### **Fiscal impact**

Requiring current orders to be advisory only could result in decreased enforcement costs for local law enforcement and health authorities. However, there could be indirect impacts if this leads to local boards of health implementing their own orders. Additionally, there could be other impacts to the state and local governments. However, these impacts would depend on the number and scope of the orders in place on the bill's effective date and the number and scope of new orders or actions sought, as well as if orders or actions received approval from the General Assembly. The General Assembly may realize an increase in administrative costs, but it is likely that existing staff and resources would be utilized to absorb any additional work and related costs incurred to approve any orders or actions.