



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 308
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 308's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate General Government & Agency Review

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Patton

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

Ruhaiza Ridzwan, Senior Economist

Highlights

- The bill creates a new fund, the State Post-Traumatic Stress Fund, to pay for compensation and benefits to a public safety officer disabled by post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) received in the course of, and arising out of, employment as a public safety officer but without an accompanying physical injury.
- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions. However, in future years, it may affect the state and political subdivisions' costs and liabilities related to PTSD compensation and benefits.

Detailed Analysis

The State Post-Traumatic Stress Fund

The bill creates a new fund, the State Post-Traumatic Stress Fund, in the state treasury. The bill specifies that the Director of Budget and Management (OBM) would be the trustee of the fund. The bill specifies the purposes of moneys in the fund: (1) paying for compensation for lost wages that result from a public safety officer being disabled by post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) received in the course of, and arising out of, employment as a public safety officer but without an accompanying physical injury, (2) paying for medical, nurse, therapy, and hospital services and medicines required to treat a public safety officer diagnosed with PTSD received in the course of, and arising out of, employment as a public safety officer but without an accompanying physical injury, and (3) paying for administrative costs incurred in providing the specified compensation and benefits.

The bill prohibits an employer from discharging, demoting, reassigning, or taking any punitive action against any public safety officer because the officer filed a claim or instituted, pursued, or testified in any proceedings related to compensation or benefits paid from the fund

as a result of a diagnosis of PTSD received in the course of, and arising out of, employment as a public safety officer but without an accompanying physical injury.

The bill requires the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F), in consultation with certain entities listed in the bill, to prepare, by a disinterested third-party actuary, an actuarial valuation of the funding requirements of the fund that is created under the bill. The actuary is required to complete the valuation in accordance with actuarial standards of practice promulgated by the actuarial standards board of the American Academy of Actuaries. The bill specifies that the Board would be reimbursed by OBM for up to \$500,000 for the expenses incurred in preparing the study. The bill also specifies certain information that must be included in the report of the actuarial analysis, and specifies that the study and report must be completed not later than October 1, 2021. Copies of the report must be transmitted to the OP&F Board of Trustees, the OBM Director, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the President and Minority Leader of the Senate, immediately on its availability.

Fiscal effect

The bill does not specify the source of funding for the fund or the source of the \$500,000 transfer by the OBM director to the OP&F Board. Also, the bill does not specify how first responders could apply for benefits paid by the fund. Though the bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions, it may, in future years, affect the state and political subdivisions' costs and liabilities related to PTSD compensation and benefits.