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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 108
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 108's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Enacted

Primary Sponsors: Sens. S. Huffman and Romanchuk

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill appropriates \$100.0 million in FY 2021 under the Coronavirus Relief Fund (Fund 5CV1) line item 195561, Bar and Restaurant Assistance, for the Development Services Agency (DSA) to provide grants to bars and restaurants that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The bill appropriates \$25.0 million in FY 2021 under Fund 5CV1 line item 195562, Lodging Industry Grants, for DSA to provide grants for lodging industry businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Detailed Analysis

In total, the bill appropriates \$125.0 million in FY 2021 to the Development Services Agency (DSA) to provide grants to bars, restaurants, and lodging industry businesses that have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These appropriations are supported by funds received by the state under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. These funds are deposited into the Coronavirus Relief Fund (Fund 5CV1).

Bar and Restaurant Assistance

Of the \$125.0 million in funding provided by the bill, \$100.0 million is appropriated under Fund 5CV1 line item 195561, Bar and Restaurant Assistance, for DSA to provide grants to bars and restaurants. Grants are to be awarded in amounts of \$10,000, \$20,000, and \$30,000 and issued based on factors such as demonstrated loss of revenue and the number of employees eligible that bars and restaurants employ. Additionally, the bill requires the DSA Director, on the closing of the application period for grants funded under this line item, to determine the amount of grant funding for bars and restaurants that went unused under this appropriation item and to award those leftover amounts as grants to bars and restaurants in a manner to be determined

by DSA. The bill further specifies that bars and restaurants which previously received grants under this line item are eligible to receive grants DSA subsequently makes available from the portion of appropriations that went unused.

The \$100 million provided for bars and restaurants under the bill follows a previous \$38.7 million in CARES Act funding approved by the Controlling Board in October 2020, for the Bar and Restaurant Assistance Program, also overseen by DSA. That program provided \$2,500 grants to businesses with liquor permits allowing for consumption on premises, including bars, restaurants, breweries, distilleries, and wineries. The deadline to apply for grants was January 31, 2021. Under the program, a little over 11,500 liquor permit holders applied for approximately \$29.0 million in grants. The bill requires the DSA Director, on the effective date of the bill, to determine the portion of funding available that went unused under this program and to award grants to bars and restaurants in a manner to be determined by DSA. Liquor permit holders who previously received grants under the Bar and Restaurant Assistance Program are also eligible for grants funded by the remaining amounts available.

Lodging Industry Grants

The remaining \$25.0 million is appropriated under Fund 5CV1 line item 195562, Lodging Industry Grants, for DSA to provide grants for lodging industry businesses. Grants are to be awarded in amounts of \$10,000, \$20,000, and \$30,000 and based on factors such as demonstrated loss of revenue and occupancy rates.