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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 35
134th General Assembly

Final Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 35's Bill Analysis](#)

Primary Sponsors: Reps. LaRe and Click

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill may potentially shift revenue opportunities between municipalities that offer to perform marriage ceremonies.
- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state.

Detailed Analysis

The bill allows a mayor to perform a marriage ceremony anywhere in the state. Under current law, a mayor may perform a marriage ceremony in any county in which such municipal corporation wholly or partly lies. A mayor may charge a fee for this service. Although the bill is permissive for any municipality, one mayor's choice to solemnize marriages outside of his or her county may negatively affect the potential revenue opportunities of other municipalities. The bill may increase competition among municipalities to provide this service at a lower cost.

Based on an informal survey of randomly selected municipalities, it appears that fees are either deposited for the use of the municipality, donated to charity, or added to the mayor's income. To the extent that this legislation may result in the shift of marriage ceremonies from one jurisdiction to another, based on increased choice, municipalities may experience either a decrease or increase in revenue. The extent of this fiscal impact is not easily measured in dollars and cents, but is likely to be minimal for any affected jurisdiction.

According to the Ohio Department of Health, as of 2019, over 62,000 marriages take place in Ohio every year.