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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 156
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 156's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Energy and Natural Resources

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Reineke and Hackett

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill increases, from \$30,000 to \$60,000, the maximum amount that may be awarded to a recipient under the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Boating Safety Education Grant Program. Continuing law caps the total amount available to the program at 10% of the moneys accruing to the Waterways Safety Fund (Fund 7086).
- The bill codifies ODNR's existing operational structure for management of the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Program, transferring the authority to administer the program from ODNR's Division of Parks and Watercraft to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP).
- The bill designates April as "Powerboat Safety Month" and requires ODNR to disseminate information to the public about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning that can occur on a powerboat. This change will have little, if any fiscal effect.

Detailed Analysis

Boating safety education grants

The bill increases, from \$30,000 to \$60,000, the maximum amount a grant recipient may receive under the Boating Safety Education Grant Program. Although the maximum grant award is increased by the bill, continuing law caps the total amount of funding available to the program at 10% of all moneys accruing to the Waterways Safety Fund (Fund 7086). Given that the total amount available to the program is unchanged, the statutory increase to the maximum grant award will have no overall impact on Fund 7086. Fund 7086 receives revenue from fees for watercraft registration and titles and 0.875% of the state motor fuel tax.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Parks and Watercraft issues boating safety education grants to political subdivisions, conservancy districts, state departments, or nonprofit organizations to assist in the creation of or participation in boating safety education programs. The program requires grant recipients to provide 25% matching funds.

Governance of the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Program

The bill modifies the law governing ODNR's Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Program. Specifically, the bill transfers the authority to administer the program from ODNR's Division of Parks and Watercraft to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP). Operationally, this change codifies ODNR's existing structure and will have little, if any fiscal effect. DNAP already supervises the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Program. The program encompasses 15 designated rivers and streams covering more than 830 river miles.

The bill also clarifies that DNAP's authority to regulate wild, scenic, and recreational rivers is limited to the designated watercourse and adjacent lands owned by ODNR. Under the bill, private lands adjacent to a designated river are not subject to regulation by DNAP under the program. This change also codifies an existing practice and thus has no fiscal effect.

Powerboat Safety Month

The bill designates April as "Powerboat Safety Month" to emphasize the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning that can occur on a powerboat. During April, the bill requires ODNR to disseminate information to the public about carbon monoxide poisoning. This requirement will have little, if any fiscal effect.