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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.)

H.B. 497 of the 135th General Assembly

Senate Local Government

Daniel DeSantis, Research Analyst

- Increases from \$25,000 to \$75,000 the total estimated cost for a county courthouse or jail project that the board of county commissioners may approve without agreement from the sheriff, probate judge, or clerk of court.
- Requires a publisher to establish a government rate for posting legal advertisements, notices, and proclamations that are required by law to be published, in a newspaper of general circulation's digital edition on the newspaper's website.
- Permits a county to publish required county advertisements in only the digital edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the county, or only on the county's website and social media account.
- Authorizes the conveyance of certain state-owned land in Monroe Township to the Knox County Park District for development into a park that is accessible and inclusive to persons of physical and mental disabilities.
- Authorizes the release of an easement respecting certain land in Montgomery County formerly under the jurisdiction of the Department of Developmental Disabilities.
- Allows a public children services agency (PCSA) to hire as a caseworker a person who has completed at least 60 credit hours or the equivalent towards a degree in human services-related studies.
- Exempts a PCSA caseworker from the requirement to obtain a job-related bachelor's degree within five years of employment if the caseworker demonstrates hardship and is determined to be in good standing.
- Extends the territorial jurisdiction of the Erie County Municipal Court beyond the south shore of Lake Erie to the international boundary line between the U.S. and Canada.
- Permits a county records commission to meet at the call of the chair rather than at least every six months.

- Authorizes a coroner, while an autopsy is pending, to deny a journalist access to preliminary autopsy and investigative notes and findings, photographs taken by a coroner, and suicide notes (access must be granted once a final autopsy report and final death certification are complete).
- Requires health care workers who obtain knowledge of facts related to an individual's suspicious or unusual death, including criminal and violent deaths, suicides, and deaths of individuals with developmental disabilities, to immediately notify the coroner of those facts.
- Specifies that autopsy costs include any component of an autopsy, as well as costs to transport the body.
- Defines "private practice of medicine" for purposes of coroner compensation, and specifies that it includes performing an autopsy at the request of another coroner, a hospital, a business entity, an institution of higher education, or any other person.
- Establishes a \$350 per hour fee for a coroner for time spent preparing for and giving expert testimony at a trial, hearing, or deposition in a civil action.
- Requires that collaboration agreements between advanced practice registered nurses and collaborating physicians, and supervision agreements between physician assistants and supervising physicians, contain an agreement that the physician must complete and sign the medical certificate of death.
- Establishes new eligibility requirements for the office of coroner. To be eligible for the office of coroner, a person must be a physician licensed under Ohio law to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery, while establishing an exception for a person elected as coroner and holding that office on the bill's effective date, but who is not licensed as a medical or osteopathic physician. Also specifies that such a coroner is not prohibited from doing any of the following after the bill's effective date: (1) continuing to hold that office or (2) seeking reelection to that office for subsequent terms, and, if reelected, continuing to hold office.