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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 54  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Final Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 54's Bill Analysis](#)

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. Reynolds and Sykes

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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Revised<sup>1</sup>

### Highlights

#### Operating appropriations

- The bill appropriates \$40,603,869 from the GRF in FY 2025 to support state employee compensation. Specific appropriations are \$34,474,413 to appropriation line item (ALI) 501321, Institutional Operations, and \$2,795,146 to ALI 503321, Parole and Community Operations, both in the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's budget, and \$3,334,310 to ALI 600450, Program Operations, in the Department of Job and Family Services' budget.
- The bill appropriates \$15,000,000 to reimburse county boards of elections for eligible expenses they incur to conduct the May 6, 2025, primary and special election. The appropriation is to Fund 5FG0 ALI 050620, BOE Reimbursement and Education, in the Secretary of State's budget. The appropriation is supported by a \$15,000,000 cash transfer from the Controlling Board Emergency Purposes/Contingencies Fund (Fund 5KM0). The bill also requires that any cash not needed for the reimbursements be transferred back to Fund 5KM0.
- The bill appropriates \$10,000,000 in FY 2025 to Fund 5BV0 ALI 700661, Soil and Water Districts, in the Department of Agriculture's budget. This ALI is used primarily to provide direct assistance to Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The appropriation is supported by a \$10,000,000 cash transfer from the Controlling Board Emergency Purposes/Contingencies Fund (Fund 5KM0).

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<sup>1</sup> Reflects Governor's veto.

- The bill appropriates \$600,000 in FY 2025 to GRF ALI 055505, Pike County Capital Case, in the Attorney General’s budget. This ALI is used to defray the costs of capital case litigation in Pike County.
- The bill appropriates \$250,000 in FY 2025 to GRF ALI 336519, Community Projects, in the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services’ budget and requires the funds be distributed to the 1N5 Foundation to provide suicide prevention in schools.
- The bill also makes various changes to operating appropriation earmarks contained in H.B. 2 and H.B. 33 of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

## **Capital appropriations and reappropriations**

- The bill increases the amount of bonds that may be issued to support the Administrative Building Fund (Fund 7026) by \$2,000,000 for the FY 2025-FY 2026 capital biennium and appropriates \$2,054,503 to Fund 7026 ALI C37428, Ohio Public TV-Radio, and \$88,500 to Fund 7026 ALI C37429, Ohio Reading Services Equipment, both in the Broadcast Educational Media Commission’s capital budget.
- The bill also makes various changes to projects receiving capital appropriations and reappropriations for the FY 2025-FY 2026 capital biennium.

## **Detailed Analysis**

### **Operating appropriations**

The bill increases operating appropriations for FY 2025 by \$66,453,869. The bill also makes various changes to operating appropriation earmarks contained in H.B. 2 and H.B. 33 of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

#### **State employee compensation**

The bill appropriates \$40,603,869 from the GRF in FY 2025 to support state employee compensation. Specific appropriations are \$34,474,413 to appropriation line item (ALI) 501321, Institutional Operations, and \$2,795,146 to ALI 503321, Parole and Community Operations, both in the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction’s budget, and \$3,334,310 to ALI 600450, Program Operations, in the Department of Job and Family Services’ budget.

#### **Reimbursement of local boards of elections special election expenses**

The bill requires county boards of elections to certify to the Secretary of State the expenses they incur for conducting the May 6, 2025, primary and special election that are eligible for reimbursement under continuing law. The bill appropriates \$15,000,000 in FY 2025 to Fund 5FG0 ALI 050620, BOE Reimbursement and Education, in the Secretary of State’s budget and requires the Secretary of State to use the appropriation to reimburse the county boards for their eligible expenses. The bill transfers \$15,000,000 cash from the Controlling Board Emergency Purposes/Contingencies Fund (Fund 5KM0) to Fund 5FG0 to support this appropriation and requires cash equal to any part of the appropriation that is not necessary for the reimbursements to be transferred back to Fund 5KM0 by September 1, 2025.

## **Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

The bill appropriates \$10,000,000 in FY 2025 to Fund 5BV0 ALI 700661, Soil and Water Districts, in the Department of Agriculture's budget. This ALI is used primarily to provide direct assistance to Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The appropriation is supported by a \$10,000,000 cash transfer from the Controlling Board Emergency Purposes/Contingencies Fund (Fund 5KM0).

## **Pike County Capital Case**

The bill appropriates \$600,000 in FY 2025 to GRF ALI 055505, Pike County Capital Case, in the Attorney General's budget. This ALI is used to defray the costs of capital case litigation in Pike County.

## **1N5 Foundation**

The bill appropriates \$250,000 in FY 2025 to GRF ALI 336519, Community Projects, in the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' budget and requires the funds be distributed to the 1N5 Foundation to provide suicide prevention in schools.

## **One Time Strategic Community Investments**

The bill amends H.B. 2 to modify several FY 2025 earmarks from Fund 5AY1 ALI 042509, One Time Strategic Community Investments, in the budget of the Office of Budget and Management, without changing the ALI's total FY 2025 appropriation as follows:

- Replaces a \$1,000,000 earmark for Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton – West Carrollton Health Center Construction with two earmarks of \$500,000 each for West Carrollton River District Whitewater Park and Saint Vincent de Paul Social Services Emergency Shelter for Men;
- Removes two earmarks (1) \$240,000 for the Preble County Fairgrounds Exhibit Fence, and (2) \$236,900 for the Preble County Fairgrounds Roof. Adds these amounts to the existing \$223,100 earmark for the Preble County Fairgrounds Stall Barns project, for a total of \$700,000;
- Renames a \$400,000 earmark from “Milford Five Points Landing Community Center” to “Milford Five Points Landing”;
- Increases an earmark for Medina County Radio System – Seville Tower by \$100,000, but also eliminates an earmark in the same amount from Fund 7030 ALI C235FM, Cultural and Sports Facilities Projects, in the Facilities Construction Commission capital reappropriations budget for the same project;
- Decreases an earmark for Medina County Sheriff Office Jail Safety Enhancement, by \$100,000, but also establishes an appropriation of the same amount to Fund 7027 ALI C501HO, Medina County Sheriff Office Jail Safety Enhancement, in the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction capital reappropriations budget.

## **Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Education Commission**

The bill amends H.B. 33 to modify a \$175,000 earmark of GRF ALI 360400, Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Education Commission, in the Ohio History Connection's budget, to support visits by Ohio students in kindergarten through twelfth grade and other individuals to Ohio's

Holocaust education and memorial museums. The modification allows the funding to be used for costs incurred by the museums to facilitate the visits.

### **Security Grants**

The bill amends H.B. 33 to remove a \$197,000 FY 2024 earmark of GRF ALI 763513, Security Grants, in the Department of Public Safety's budget, for the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati for a mail room pilot program that was not spent and instead to earmark \$98,500 in FY 2025 for the Jewish Federation of Cleveland to be used for mail room security pilot programs at the Federation and the Mandel Jewish Community Center and another \$98,500 in FY 2025 for JewishAkron to be used for a mail room security pilot program.

### **Capital appropriations and reappropriations**

The bill amends H.B. 2 to establish new capital appropriations totaling \$2,143,003 and to redirect funding, change the source of funding, and rename various current capital appropriations and reappropriations.

#### **New capital appropriations – Administrative Building Fund**

The bill increases the amount of bonds that may be issued to support the Administrative Building Fund (Fund 7026) by \$2,000,000 for the FY 2025-FY 2026 capital biennium and appropriates \$2,054,503 to Fund 7026 ALI C37428, Ohio Public TV-Radio, and \$88,500 to Fund 7026 ALI C37429, Ohio Radio Reading Services Equipment, both in the Broadcast Educational Media Commission's capital budget.

#### **Changes to current capital appropriations and reappropriations**

The bill combines earmarks of reappropriations to the Mental Health Facilities Improvement Fund (Fund 7033) ALI C58050, Community Support, under the capital reappropriations budget of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), for \$1,000,000 for the Cuyahoga Commission Restoration of Mental Health Diversion Center and \$700,000 for Cuyahoga County into one \$1,700,000 earmark for the Cuyahoga County Mental Health Diversion Center.

The bill changes the funding source for a \$500,000 project for the Alliance for Working together from Higher Education Improvement Fund (Fund 7034) ALI C37937, Alliance for Working Together, under the budget of Lakeland Community College, to an earmark of Cultural and Sports Facilities Building Fund (Fund 7030) ALI C230FM, Cultural and Sports Facilities Projects, under the budget of the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.

The bill redirects a reappropriation of \$500,000 in Fund 7034 ALI C25537, YWCA Dayton – Huber Heights Campus, under the budget of Central State University (CSU), to new Fund 7034 ALIs C25541, Dayton Dream Center Transitional Housing, and C25542, East End Whole Family Services Hub Facility Expansion and Renovation in Dayton, each with reappropriations of \$125,000 under CSU's budget, and an earmark of \$250,000 for Saint Vincent de Paul Social Services Emergency Shelter for Men under Fund 7033 ALI C58050, Community Support.

The bill redirects a \$350,000 earmark of Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund (Fund 7035) ALI C725E2, Local Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Projects, in the budget of the Department of Natural Resources for Fort Jennings Park Improvements to a \$250,000 earmark

for the Putnam County Historical Society Museum and a \$100,000 earmark for the Paulding County Trails Project.

The bill redirects a \$300,000 earmark reappropriated under Fund 7030 ALI C230FM, Cultural and Sports Facilities Projects, from the Gloria Theatre and the Urbana Youth Center Improvements project to the Champaign County YMCA project.

The bill redirects a reappropriation of \$250,000 to Fund 7034 ALI C34567, Western Reserve Port Authority, in Youngstown State University's capital reappropriations budget, to an earmark of Fund 7035 ALI C725E2, Local Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Projects, for the Vienna Air Heritage Park.

The bill changes the funding source for a \$200,000 project for the Perry Township Whispering Grace Horses and Freedom Farm from an earmark of Fund 7033 ALI C58050, Community Support, in the OhioMHAS capital budget to a new Fund 7034 ALI C38952, Perry Township Whispering Grace Horses and Freedom Farm, under the capital budget of Stark Technical College.

The bill establishes Adult Correctional Building Fund (Fund 7027) ALI C501HO, Medina County Sheriff Jail Safety Enhancement, with a reappropriation of \$100,000 under the budget of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and redirects up to \$100,000 of the unencumbered balance as of June 30, 2024, in Fund 7030 ALI C230FM, Cultural and Sports Facilities Projects, to support this reappropriation. As mentioned previously, the bill also decreases an earmark of Fund 5AY1 ALI 042509, One Time Strategic Community Investments, by \$100,000 for the same project.

The bill eliminates a \$100,000 earmark of reappropriations to Fund 7030 ALI C230FM, Cultural and Sports Facilities Projects, for the Medina County Radio System – Seville Tower, but, as mentioned previously, also increases an earmark of Fund 5AY1 ALI 042509, One Time Strategic Community Investments, by \$100,000 for the same project.

The bill redirects a \$75,000 earmark reappropriated to Fund 7035 ALI C725E2, Local Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Projects, from the Van Wert Reservoir Trails to Hiestand Woods Park and Preserve.

The bill changes the funding source for a \$70,000 earmark supporting the Madeira Dawson Promenade Connector from Fund 7033 ALI C58050, Community Support, to Fund 7035 ALI C725E2, Local Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Projects.

The bill changes the funding source for \$50,000 for Chesterhill Lions Club from an earmark of Fund 7030 ALI C230FM, Cultural and Sports Facilities Projects, to Fund 7034 ALI C30186, Chesterhill Lions Club, under the budget of Ohio University.

The bill renames an \$18,000 earmark of Fund 7035 ALI C725E2, Local Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Projects, from Rockford Community Park Public Restrooms to Rockford Community Park Improvements.

The bill redirects a \$7,500 earmark of Fund 7035 ALI C725E2, Local Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Projects, from the Antwerp Riverside Park Fitness Trail to the Paulding County Trails Project.

## **Department of Development**

### **Ohio River Commission**

The bill creates the Ohio River Commission in the Department of Development (DEV), which may increase costs and revenues for DEV. The Commission is to have nine members including the directors of Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources, or their designees, and six public members. DEV will incur costs to reimburse public members for their expenses and to provide meeting and office space for the Commission. Subject to receiving appropriations, which the bill does not provide, the bill permits the Commission to hire an executive director, a secretary-treasurer, or other employees it considers appropriate. Annual payroll costs for an Executive Director 1 and an Administrative Professional 2 under the state's job classification plan could range from nearly \$130,000 to approximately \$300,000. This includes the state's share of the employees' retirement and coverage for either single or family health care coverage.

The bill creates the Ohio River Commission Fund and permits the Commission to raise funds and accept gifts, grants, and bequests to be deposited in the fund. Any revenue deposited to the fund is to be used to defray the Commission's administrative expenses and fulfill its purposes as established by the bill.

### **Ohio Ireland Trade Commission**

The bill creates the Ohio Ireland Trade Commission, which may increase costs and revenues for the state. The Commission is to have nine members including three members of the Senate, three members of the House of Representatives, and three persons appointed by the Governor. The bill specifies that Commission members serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for their expenses. The bill requires the Commission to hold hearings throughout the state and to issue an annual report of its activities.

The bill creates the Ohio Ireland Trade Commission Fund and permits the Commission to raise funds and accept gifts, grants, and bequests to be deposited in the fund. Any revenue deposited to the fund is to be used to defray the Commission's administrative expenses and fulfill its purposes as established by the bill.

### **Sports Event Grant Program**

The bill expands the types of events that qualify for funding under DEV's Sports Event Grant Program. Currently, the program offers grants to local organizing committees, municipalities, or counties seeking to attract major sporting events. The bill expands eligibility to include any "competition" that is either governed by an international federation or included in the Olympic games, Pan American games, or Commonwealth games. Current law limits eligibility to "sports" that meet both of those criteria. The Sports Event Grant Program is funded by cash transfers from the GRF and appropriated under Fund 5UY0 ALI 195496, Sports Events Grants.

## **Vetoed Provision**

The Governor vetoed a provision that would have required local boards of elections to wait until after the primary and special election on May 6, 2025, to seek reimbursements for expenses incurred in conducting the election.