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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 139
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Hall

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SUMMARY

- Requires the State Fire Marshal to ensure the periodic inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire hydrant systems in accordance with state laws, state regulations, and National Fire Protection Associations standards.
- Codifies certain minimum inspection, testing, and maintenance standards.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Fire hydrant inspection, testing, and maintenance

The bill expressly requires the State Fire Marshal to ensure the inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire hydrant systems in Ohio are conducted in accordance with state law, the regulations within the State Fire Code, and the National Fire Protection Association's recommended standards.¹ Under current law, the Fire Marshal is required to adopt and enforce the State Fire Code. As part of that State Fire Code, the Fire Marshal must adopt rules to establish the minimum performance standards for fire protection equipment and firefighting equipment.² While the State Fire Code has express standards for inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire hydrants, those standards are not currently part of the Revised Code.³

The bill requires fire hydrant systems to be maintained in an operative condition at all times and repaired where defective. Any additions, repairs, alterations, and servicing must comply with the approved standards. Records of tests, repairs, and regular maintenance must be

¹ R.C. 3737.834(A).

² R.C. 3737.22, 3737.82, and 3737.83(A), not in the bill.

³ Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.) 1301:7-7-05.

retained for at least one year after a subsequent test, repair, or maintenance is performed on the fire hydrant system. Those records must be available for the State Fire Marshal to inspect.⁴

Additionally, the bill codifies minimum standards for inspection, testing, and maintenance for the fire hydrant systems as follows:

- Fire hydrants must be inspected annually and after each operation. A flow test and general maintenance must be conducted annually.
- Fire service main piping must be inspected annually. A flow test must be conducted every five years.
- Fire service main piping strainers must be inspected and receive general maintenance care after each use.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-26-25

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⁴ R.C. 3737.834(B).

⁵ R.C. 3737.843(C). See also O.A.C. 1301:7-7-05(G)(5).