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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 139**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 139's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. T. Hall

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- Public fire services could incur some additional costs for following the inspection, testing, and maintenance standards that apply to private fire hydrant systems under the State Fire Code if they are not already doing so.
- One of the requirements under the bill is to conduct scheduled flow rate testing on fire hydrant systems. This might be more of a burden on volunteer fire departments, since this testing involves several people and specialized equipment.

### **Detailed Analysis**

The bill requires the State Fire Marshal to ensure the periodic inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire hydrant systems in accordance with standards that apply to private fire hydrant systems. In doing so, the bill codifies State Fire Code standards under section 1301:7-7-05 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

The bill could add some costs for public fire and water services if they are not currently adhering to all of the requirements in the State Fire Code applicable to private fire hydrant systems noted above. However, based on conversations LBO had with fire department officials in Oakwood and Cambridge, those cities conduct annual hydrant flushing, testing, and maintenance, as does Akron and Canton. Cleveland (with 77,000 hydrants) conducts annual tests in the spring and summer. However, it is possible that smaller communities served by volunteer fire departments may face a bigger burden, in particular for conducting flow rate testing as required under the bill. During these tests, several individuals using specialized equipment, must take three pressure readings on a fire hydrant. Some volunteer fire departments might not have this equipment.

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