



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

*Genevieve Davison*

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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**Bill:** H.B. 66 of the 131st G.A.

**Date:** May 11, 2015

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Rep. Barnes

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Contents:** Creates the Veteran and Disabled Ohioan Technology Council

### State Fiscal Highlights

- Increase in costs to the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD) of approximately \$86,000 per year.
- Potential gain in revenue to be deposited in the newly created Technology Assistance Fund.

### Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

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## Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill creates the Veteran and Disabled Ohioan Technology Council within the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD). The nine-member council must study and determine methods to improve accommodations for individuals with disabilities through technology and present an annual report to the Governor.

The bill also creates the Technology Assistance Fund to improve accommodations for individuals with disabilities through technology. The fund is administered by the Executive Director of OOD, and consists of donations, gifts, and contributions from businesses and any appropriations made to the fund.

OOD estimates that, annually, the direct cost of the Council would be \$86,049 (this includes an executive secretary, travel reimbursement, and assistance for blind/disabled council members).

The bill does not provide funding for the costs of the Council; therefore OOD would have to cover these costs out of existing funds. According to OOD, OOD's only source of discretionary funds is Fund 4L10 (DUI licensing funds). These funds are typically used to match federal Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) grants. For every \$1 OOD expends in state match on VR allowable expenses, the federal government provides approximately \$3.69 to Ohio in federal VR funds. However, the costs of the Council are not an allowable use of VR funds. Thus, OOD would lose \$317,937 in federal VR dollars if moneys in Fund 4L10 are used to support the Council.