



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Joseph Rogers

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 283 of the 131st G.A.

Date: October 27, 2015

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Fedor

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: DNA testing for certain additional misdemeanor convictions

State Fiscal Highlights

- Expanding the state's existing DNA collection and analysis system will increase expenditures of the Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) by as much as \$654,000 annually.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The cost for counties and municipalities to collect the required DNA specimens will be minimal. The reason is twofold. First, trained personnel and collection protocols are in place. Second, BCI provides offender DNA collection kits to all collecting agencies free of charge.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill expands the state's existing DNA collection and testing system to require specimens for additional misdemeanor convictions involving the following sex offenses: voyeurism, public indecency, procuring, soliciting, loitering to engage in solicitation, and prostitution.

There is no readily available statewide conviction data for these misdemeanor sex offenses. Utilizing charging data from the Franklin County Municipal Court, however, one can use a simple population-based extrapolation to estimate a rough statewide approximation. In calendar years 2013 and 2014, the Court reported an average of about 1,477 charges filed for these misdemeanor sex offenses. (Each charge does not represent a unique individual, as some individuals will have been charged with more than one offense.) Given that Franklin County has about 9% of the Ohio population, and assuming a similar distribution of these sex offense charges in other counties, one can estimate that as many as 16,000 charges may have been filed statewide in each of those years. As the conviction rate for these offenses is likely to be fairly high, this means that thousands of additional DNA specimens will have to be collected by various criminal justice entities per year and sent to the Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) for analysis.

BCI estimates the cost of an offender DNA collection kit at \$24. The collection kit consists of an instruction sheet, a buccal DNA collector, a database collection card, a transport pouch, and a pre-addressed and prepaid return mailing envelope. If the bill creates the need for up to 16,000 additional DNA collection kits annually, the cost to BCI each year will be up to \$384,000. The additional workload could be significant enough that BCI may have to hire three staff (two scientists and a clerk) at a cost of around \$270,000 per year. The net of these two additional cost points (collection kits and staff) will increase BCI's annual expenditures by up to \$654,000.

The cost for counties and municipalities to collect the required DNA specimens will be minimal. The reason is twofold. First, trained personnel and collection protocols are in place. Second, BCI provides offender DNA collection kits to all collecting agencies free of charge.