



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 271 of the 131st G.A. **Date:** December 1, 2016

Status: As Reported by Senate Agriculture **Sponsor:** Sen. Gentile

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Purchase of a police dog or horse for fair market value

State and Local Fiscal Highlights

- Presumably, the state or any of its political subdivisions generally will not sell a police dog or horse unless the revenue gained matches the cost of the animal's replacement, thus making the transaction more or less cost neutral.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill allows a law enforcement officer, under certain conditions, to purchase a police dog or horse for fair market value when the officer retires in good standing from a law enforcement agency, and declares an emergency. Currently, a law enforcement officer, under certain conditions, is permitted to purchase the dog or horse for \$1, but forfeits this right if the animal is still fit for duty when the officer leaves the agency.

The timing of, and jurisdiction in which, the animal purchases permitted by the bill may occur is indeterminate. Presumably, the state or any of its political subdivisions generally will not sell a police dog or horse unless the revenue gained matches the cost of the animal's replacement, thus making the transaction more or less cost neutral.

Police dogs

According to the Ohio Law Enforcement K-9 Association, there are approximately 425 law enforcement agencies in Ohio with trained dogs. Generally, the number of officers who handle a dog in each jurisdiction is relatively small. The size of a canine unit varies; many law enforcement agencies have only one dog. Several sources suggest that the fair market value of a police dog with several years of service left before retirement is approximately \$3,500.

Police horses

The Northern Ohio Mounted Mutual Aid Alliance has stated that there are approximately 20 law enforcement agencies in Ohio with equine units. Units typically consist of 1 to 20 horses. In Ohio, there are very few agencies that actually own their own horses. Agencies that do own their own horses include the Cleveland Police Department, Cleveland Metroparks, and the Columbus Division of Police.

The Buckeye State Mounted Association, which represents all of the county sheriff mounted units in the state, stated that a county sheriff's office does not own horses – each individual deputy owns/leases their own horse.

The length of time horses serve can be up to 20 years. The fair market value of a horse greatly varies based on their age, breed, condition, and training. The fair market value of a horse of retirement age is approximately \$500; the fair market value of a horse fit for duty ranges between \$7,500 and \$9,500.