



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Amanda M. Ferguson

S.B. 103

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Coley, Williams, Brown

BILL SUMMARY

- Authorizes a board of county commissioners to enter into a contract with the county sheriff or a chief of a fire department that has countywide authority to implement a countywide program for emergency management as an alternative to implementing such a program under the authority of a countywide emergency management agency.
 - Requires all agencies, boards, and divisions that have emergency management functions within each political subdivision within the county to cooperate in the development of an all-hazards emergency operations plan and participate in an annual exercise.
 - Authorizes the board of county commissioners to appropriate money from its general fund to meet its obligations under the contract, including those related to developing and maintaining a countywide public safety communication system.
-

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Countywide emergency planning

Background

The bill establishes an alternative to the existing process by which a countywide program for emergency management may be established. Under current law, each county, township, or municipal corporation (political subdivision) in Ohio must participate in one of the following:

(1) A countywide program for emergency management, which is governed by a countywide emergency management agency that is established, via written agreement,

by the board of county commissioners of a county and the chief executive of all or a majority of the other political subdivisions within the county.

(2) A regional program for emergency management, which is governed by a regional authority for emergency management that is established, via written agreement, by the boards of county commissioners of two or more counties, with the consent of the chief executives of a majority of the participating political subdivisions of each county involved; or

(3) A program for emergency management established by the political subdivision.¹

A countywide emergency management agency is governed by an executive committee, which consists of at least the following seven members: one county commissioner representing the board of county commissioners entering into the agreement; five chief executives representing the municipal corporations and townships entering into the agreement; and one nonelected representative. The countywide agreement must specify if any additional members will serve on the executive committee. The executive committee is required to appoint a director/coordinator of emergency management who is responsible for coordinating, organizing, administering, and operating emergency management in accordance with the countywide agency's program. The director/coordinator may be an official or employee of any political subdivision entering into the countywide agreement, except that the director/coordinator may not be the chief executive of any of those political subdivisions.²

Alternative method of establishing a countywide program

The bill allows a board of county commissioners to establish a countywide program for emergency management without the establishment of a countywide emergency management agency. Under the bill, the board may enter into a contract with the county sheriff or a chief of a fire department that has countywide authority in order to implement a countywide emergency management program. Such a contract cannot last longer than four years. After entering into the contract, the sheriff or fire chief must appoint a director/coordinator of emergency management. The director/coordinator must pursue and complete a professional development program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director of Public Safety, and coordinate, organize, administer, and operate emergency management in accordance with the

¹ R.C. 5502.26; R.C. 5502.27 and 5502.271, not in the bill.

² R.C. 5502.26(A).



program for emergency management (which is established by contract), subject to the direction of the sheriff or fire chief. The program for emergency management must:

(1) Comply with the laws, rules, and regulations governing emergency management, including the requirement to cooperate with other state agencies and political subdivisions;

(2) Include an all-hazards emergency operations plan that has been coordinated with all agencies, boards, and divisions with emergency management functions within the county; and

(3) Include the preparation and conduct of an annual exercise of the county's all-hazards emergency operations plan.³

All agencies, boards, and divisions that have emergency management functions within each political subdivision within the county are required to cooperate in the development of the all-hazards emergency operations plan and to cooperate in the preparation and conduct of the annual exercise. However, a political subdivision located in the county is not required to be a part of the contract so long as the political subdivision establishes its own program for emergency management. The board of county commissioners that entered into a contract to establish the countywide emergency management program is permitted to appropriate money from its general fund to meet its obligations under the contract, including the development, acquisition, operation, and maintenance of a countywide public safety communication system and any communication devices, radios, and other equipment necessary for the system's operation and use. Such money may be used to purchase and maintain the assets and equipment of the county or of the sheriff or fire chief who entered into the contract.⁴

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-21-17

S0103-I-132.docx/ks

³ R.C. 5502.26(A) and (B).

⁴ R.C. 5502.26(B) and (C) and 5502.261(B).

