



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Bill Analysis

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### **H.B. 643\***

132nd General Assembly  
(As Reported by H. Finance)

**Reps.** Arndt and Patterson, Schuring, Reineke, Hill, Gavarone, Stein, Manning, Hoops, West

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

### **Additional appropriations for Lake Erie water quality programs**

#### **Main Operating Budget Act**

- For fiscal year 2019, appropriates an additional \$3.5 million (for a total of \$6.8 million) under the General Revenue Fund for the Department of Agriculture in the main operating budget.
- Earmarks that additional amount to support county soil and water conservation districts in the Western Lake Erie Basin for staffing costs and to assist in soil testing and nutrient management plan development.

#### **Department of Agriculture – Soil and Water Phosphorous Program**

- Appropriates \$20 million during fiscal year 2019 under the General Revenue Fund for the Soil and Water Phosphorus Program in the main operating budget.
- Requires the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Lake Erie Commission and the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission, to establish programs that assist in reducing total phosphorus and dissolved reactive phosphorus in the Western Lake Erie Basin.
- Requires priority to be given to sub-watersheds that are highest in total phosphorus and dissolved reactive phosphorus nutrient loading.

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\* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Finance Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

- Requires the \$20 million appropriation to be used to support the following specific programs:
  - The purchase of equipment for (1) subsurface placement of nutrients into the soil, (2) nutrient placement based on geographic information system data, and (3) manure transformation and manure conversion technologies;
  - Soil testing;
  - Implementation of variable rate technology;
  - Tributary monitoring;
  - Water management and edge-of-field drainage management; and
  - An agricultural phosphorus reduction revolving loan program.
- Specifies that a maximum of 40% of the \$20 million appropriation can be used on a single activity.

### **Capital budget funding**

#### **Department of Higher Education – Sea Grant–Stone Laboratory**

- Appropriates \$2.65 million to the Higher Education Improvement Fund for the Sea Grant–Stone Laboratory in the capital budget act for the FY 2019-FY 2020 biennium.
- Earmarks the appropriation to be used by the Ohio Sea Grant Program to construct new laboratory space at Stone Laboratory and to buy new in-lake monitoring equipment, including real-time buoys and water treatment plant monitoring sondes.
- Increases the amount of original obligations that the Ohio Public Facilities Commission is authorized to issue and sell by \$2 million, from \$429 million to \$431 million, to pay the costs of capital facilities for state-supported and state-assisted intuitions of higher education.

#### **Department of Natural Resources – Healthy Lake Erie Initiative**

- Increases appropriations under Ohio Parks and Natural Resources Fund by \$10 million for a total of \$20 million for the FY 2019-FY 2020 capital biennium.
- Earmarks this additional amount to support projects that enhance efforts to reduce open lake disposal of dredged material into Lake Erie by 2020.

- Increases the amount of original obligations that the Ohio Public Facilities Commission is authorized to issue and sell by \$10 million, from \$24 million to \$34 million, to provide sufficient money to pay costs of capital facilities that enhance the use or enjoyment of Ohio's natural resources.

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced Reported, H. Finance	05-09-18 ---

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