



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Terry Steele

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

**Bill:** H.B. 558 of the 132nd G.A.

**Status:** As Reported by House Armed Services, Veteran Affairs, and Homeland Security

**Sponsor:** Rep. McClain

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Subject:** Exempts qualifying veterans from paying registration fees for assistance dogs

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### Local Fiscal Highlights

- Extending the dog registration fee exemption for an assistance dog to encompass veterans with a service-related disability will result in dog registration revenue losses to county dog and kennel funds; however, the total magnitude of this loss is unclear.

### Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill extends the dog registration fee exemption for an assistance dog to apply to veterans with service-related disabilities. Specifically, the bill expands the exemption to a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, including reserve components or the National Guard, who has been discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions, and who has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), or any other service-related disability.

Ultimately, the bill could reduce dog registration revenues collected by county auditors and deposited into county dog and kennel funds. The amount of revenue loss resulting from the bill would depend on (1) the established dog registration fee in a particular county, and (2) the number of qualifying veterans who wish to have a service dog exempted from the registration fees under the bill. As an example, the Franklin County Auditor charges \$18 for a one-year dog registration, \$54 for a three-year registration, or \$180 for a permanent registration for spayed or neutered dogs. The registration fee for dogs that are not spayed or neutered is \$35 for a one-year registration, \$105 for a three-year registration, or \$350 for a permanent registration. The U.S. Census Bureau's most recent population data estimates that there are approximately 865,000 veterans in Ohio.<sup>1</sup> Census Bureau data further estimates that approximately 20% of all veterans have a service-related disability.<sup>2</sup> However, it is

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www2.census.gov/library/visualizations/2015/comm/vets/oh-vets.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2015/cb15-ff23.html>.

unclear as to how many veterans would qualify for an assistance dog under the bill and how many qualifying veterans would opt to obtain an assistance dog that would be exempt from registration fees.