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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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S.B. 31
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 31's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate Judiciary

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Roegner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill may increase the annual costs that state and local public offices incur: (1) to train staff in public records policy, and (2) for staff to expend additional time and effort to ensure that exempted information is not disclosed. It appears that such public offices generally can absorb these costs with existing staffing levels and appropriated funds.

Detailed Analysis

The bill adds “emergency service telecommunicators” and certain Ohio National Guard members to the list of professions whose residential and familial information is exempted from disclosure under the Public Records Law. The bill further allows these individuals to request that their address be redacted from any record of a public office that is publicly available on the Internet in which their residential and familial information appears, except for the records of the county auditor. Finally, as it applies to publicly available records stored by the county auditor, the bill allows the officers to request that the county auditor replace the officer’s name with their initials.

As noted, this exclusion already applies to certain listed professions under current law. In essence, the bill simply adds to this list. Because of this, public offices have procedures in place for the removal or redaction of personal information of these employees. Thus, the addition of professions protected under this exemption would appear to be work that public officers generally can absorb with existing staffing levels and appropriated funds.