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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 272
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 272's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Enacted

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Oelslager and Hillyer

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Robert Meeker, Budget Analyst, and other LBO staff

Highlights

- The bill's long-arm statute provision may increase the number of civil actions filed in local courts, with any related increase in annual operating expenses likely to be offset to some degree by the payment of court fees and costs.

Detailed Analysis

Long-arm statute

The bill expands the exercise of personal jurisdiction by a court to include personal jurisdiction over a person on any basis consistent with the Ohio Constitution and the United States Constitution rather than only allowing a cause of action arising from specific acts enumerated under the Revised Code.

Apparently, those two constitutional documents can limit Ohio's long-arm statute under certain circumstances. "Long-arm" refers to a court's ability to obtain personal jurisdiction over an out-of-state defendant when the defendant has sufficient connections to the state. The bill would increase the ability for Ohio courts to assert civil jurisdiction over actions by an out-of-state actor, which presumably means some increase in the number of civil actions filed in local courts and subsequently adjudicated. Although the potential number of resulting civil actions is unknown, any resulting increase in a local court's annual operating expenses is not expected to be significant, and may be partially offset by the payment of court fees and costs.

Prohibiting orders to close places of worship

The bill strictly prohibits a state or local public official from issuing an order to close all places of worship in the state, or in a geographic area of the state. There does not appear to be any direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions associated with limiting this authority of public officials.

Bar on changing conduct of an election

The bill specifies that except as otherwise provided, no public official can cause an election to be conducted other than in the time, place, and manner prescribed in statute. Presumably, any such attempts at changing an election would be infrequent. However, in such instances, it is likely that if the time, place, or manner of an election were changed relatively close to the time that an election was normally held, the resulting overall costs for that election would be higher.