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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 211
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 211's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate Local Government, Public Safety, & Veterans Affairs

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Arndt

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill would have a minimal fiscal impact on courts handling cases involving a property owner's attempt to recover the cost for storing or removing abandoned vessels or outboard motors.
- The number of abandoned vessels statewide is unknown. However, the Department of Natural Resources carried out almost 300 title searches to resolve disposition in calendar year 2019. Overall, there are approximately 300,000 motor boats currently registered in Ohio.

Detailed Analysis

The bill could have some minimal fiscal effect on courts of common pleas or other relevant courts for handling civil cases involving the cost of storing or disposing of abandoned vessels or outboard motors. Any such costs would be offset by court fees that are assessed for adjudicating these cases. Also, clerks of courts may see some additional work for processing title transfers as outlined in the bill, but would recoup these costs through title fees, which are \$15. It is difficult to estimate the number of abandoned vessels or outboard motors that could be subject to the bill's provisions. Records from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Parks and Watercraft indicate that it completed 297 such searches in calendar year 2018 and 300 of these searches in calendar year 2019. Overall, as of this writing, there are 301,143 registered motor boats and 254,466 paddle craft registered in Ohio.

The bill sets out a new procedure by which a property owner may dispose of an abandoned vessel or outboard motor if the fair market value is under \$10,000. The bill also outlines a process the property owner on whose property the abandoned vessel is located must follow in order for the clerk of courts to transfer title. While the bill makes these changes, it

retains current law practices for individuals to report abandoned watercraft left on the owner's property for 72 hours or more.

Finally, the bill requires the Division of Parks and Watercraft to issue a disclosure statement to all registered watercraft owners detailing the provisions and requirements in the bill. This would impose little if any cost to the Division, as it would be part of the existing triennial vessel registration process. Any costs incurred would be paid from the Waterways Safety Fund (Fund 7086).