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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 312
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 312's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Enacted

Primary Sponsor: Sen. McColley

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Hardin County Court of Common Pleas is expected to accommodate the modifications to the powers and jurisdiction of its judges utilizing existing staff and appropriated resources.
- The bill's effect on the annual operating costs of the Columbiana County Prosecutor, as well as the annual criminal prosecution budgets of East Liverpool, Liverpool Township, and St. Clair Township, are uncertain.
- In the absence of the bill, the Supreme Court will realize increased expenses for compensation paid for certain active judges not currently compensated by the Court.

Detailed Analysis

Hardin County Court of Common Pleas

The bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions. The bill modifies the powers and jurisdiction of the judges of the Hardin County Court of Common Pleas, and makes related division designation and judicial election changes. The court's caseload will be unaffected. While there may be some indirect incidental administrative costs related to the transition (i.e., updates to stationary, signage, and the court's website), they are not expected to be significant in relation to the existing day-to-day operating costs of the court and will likely be undertaken as part of normal upkeep and management.

Currently, the Hardin County Court of Common Pleas has two judges, one general division judge and one probate judge. The probate judge was most recently elected in 2014 and that judge's successor will be elected in 2020, term to begin February 9, 2021. The general division

judge was most recently elected in 2016 and that judge's successor will be elected in 2022, term to begin on January 1, 2023.

Columbiana County Prosecutor

The bill requires the Columbiana County Prosecutor to prosecute in the Columbiana County Municipal Court all violations of state law arising in the county, including violations arising in East Liverpool, Liverpool Township, or St. Clair Township that the prosecuting attorney is not required to prosecute under current law. The number of cases involving state law violations that, in the future, will likely fall under the jurisdiction of the Columbiana County Prosecutor are uncertain as is any related increase in annual operating costs. Whether there is a savings in annual prosecution costs that otherwise would have been incurred by East Liverpool, Liverpool Township, or St. Clair Township is uncertain.

Reimbursements for payments of assigned judges

The bill requires the treasurer of the county in which a county-operated municipal court, other municipal court, or county court is located to pay the per-diem compensation to which an assigned judge is entitled as a full-time or a sitting judge of the court of appeals or court of common pleas. In the absence of the provision, the Supreme Court will incur expenses to compensate certain active judges not currently compensated by the Court.