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Office

H.B. 167
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 167's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate Finance

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Oelslager

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- **Development Services Agency (DSA).** The bill appropriates \$465.0 million in FY 2021 under Emergency Rental Assistance Fund (Fund 5CV2) line item 195559, Rent and Utility Assistance, for DSA to fund an emergency rental assistance program.
- **Department of Public Safety (DPS).** The bill appropriates \$100.0 million in FY 2021 under Disaster Relief Fund (Fund 3370) line item 763515, COVID Relief – Federal.

Detailed Analysis

Development Services Agency

The bill appropriates \$465.0 million in FY 2021 under Emergency Rental Assistance Fund (Fund 5CV2) line item 195559, Rent and Utility Assistance, for the Development Services Agency (DSA) to fund an emergency rental assistance program in accordance with funding the state of Ohio received under the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, and U.S. Department of the Treasury guidelines.

The appropriation provided under the bill follows two previous allocations overseen by DSA for home and utility financial relief for individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In October 2020, the Controlling Board approved of \$55.2 million in funding for DSA to oversee the Home Relief Grant Program. That program used federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to provide mortgage, rental, water, or sewer utility payment assistance to qualifying low- and moderate-income individuals. Additionally, in January 2021, the Controlling Board approved \$100.0 million in federal funding that Ohio received under the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2021, for DSA to oversee rent, utility, and home energy assistance payments to individuals at or below 80% of the area median income. Community action agencies were responsible for administering these programs at the local level.

Department of Public Safety

The bill appropriates \$100.0 million in FY 2021 under Disaster Relief Fund (Fund 3370) line item 763515, COVID Relief – Federal. The appropriation will allow for the pass-through of federal disaster assistance funding related to COVID-19, specifically the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance Program, and follows a March 8, 2021, Controlling Board approval of \$45.0 million in FY 2021 for the same purpose.

The FEMA Public Assistance Program reimburses state and local governments, as well as certain private nonprofit organizations, for certain costs incurred in responding to and recovering from major disasters or emergencies. The federal government, through the FEMA Public Assistance Program, is providing funding for COVID-19 response-related costs, including personal protective equipment (PPE), eligible personnel costs, and state/local Emergency Operation Center (EOC) activation costs. A presidential memorandum issued on January 21, 2021, waives the 25% nonfederal cost-share requirement that is typically associated with the FEMA Public Assistance Program for eligible COVID-19 costs until September 30, 2021.