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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

S.B. 83
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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Version: As Reported by Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Williams and Rulli

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will experience some administrative costs associated with completing the brownfield study required under the bill. For that purpose, the bill appropriates \$150,000 GRF in FY 2021, which may offset those costs, either in whole or in part.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) to conduct, in conjunction with Ohio public universities, a study to determine the location of brownfields in the state. Brownfields are defined as a site that is an abandoned, idled, or underused industrial, commercial, or institutional property where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by known or potential release of hazardous substances or petroleum. The Ohio EPA is required to complete and submit a report detailing its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by January 1, 2023, and to make it publicly available on the agency's website.

The bill appropriates \$150,000 to newly created GRF appropriation item 715603, Brownfield Study, in FY 2021 to assist in paying for the study.¹ The costs that the Ohio EPA will incur to complete the work have yet to be determined. However, the Ohio EPA will be able to leverage the framework of the "Ohio Brownfield Inventory" that currently exists via the agency's

¹ FY 2021 ends on June 30, 2021.

Voluntary Action Program.² The inventory includes properties that have received funding through either the Clean Ohio Assistance Fund (COAF) or Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (CORF) or other grant programs. Cities, counties, townships, villages, and private property owners are encouraged to list their brownfield properties on this inventory, which is available to the public.³

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² Under the Voluntary Action Program (VAP), companies are permitted to investigate possible environmental contamination, clean it up if necessary, and receive a promise from the state of Ohio not to sue and that no more cleanup is needed.

³ https://epa.ohio.gov/derr/SABR/brown_dtb/browndtb.