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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 293
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 293's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Gavarone and Johnson

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill's prohibition should have no direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions, as there do not appear to be any political subdivisions requiring fees or firearms liability insurance for the possession of firearms.
- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state.

Detailed Analysis

The bill prohibits a political subdivision from (1) requiring gun owners to possess firearms liability insurance, or (2) charging a fee for the possession of a firearm, parts, components, or ammunition. Current law similarly prohibits political subdivisions from all manner of regulating possession or conduct associated with firearms or their parts, components, or ammunition. It is uncertain as to whether that current law bars political subdivisions from taking the regulatory actions expressly prohibited by the bill.

LBO is unaware of any political subdivision in Ohio that currently requires fees or firearms liability insurance for the possession of firearms. This suggests that the bill's prohibition should have no direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions, as no regulatory or enforcement costs are being incurred nor fee revenue collected.

There is limited reliable data on gun ownership in Ohio. The RAND Corporation published a 2020 study on adults who reported owning at least one gun. According to the study, 40% of adults in Ohio have at least one firearm at home. In addition, every year the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms publishes a list of federally registered guns by state that covers a subsection of weapons, excluding ordinary pistols. There were 208,661 federally registered guns

in Ohio in 2021.¹ In that year, there were 202,920 concealed carry licenses issued and roughly 700,000 active licenses statewide.

Available evidence suggests that, nationally, the city of San Jose, California was the first and only local government to require firearm liability insurance and a possession fee. The city faces continuing litigation surrounding its \$25 fee, which will generate an estimated \$1.3 million annually.² These gun control measures, passed in January 2022, exempt those in law enforcement, those with concealed carry permits, and those for whom the fee would be a financial burden. Based on the 2021 U.S. Census Bureau estimate, San Jose has a population of 1,013,240. The city estimates 15% of households (between 50,000 and 55,000 of about 325,000 households) own guns.³

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¹ [cbsnews.com/pictures/gun-ownership-rates-by-state/](https://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/gun-ownership-rates-by-state/).

² sanjosespotlight.com/tax-groups-sue-san-jose-over-firearm-fee/.

³ [cnn.com/2022/03/06/us/san-jose-guns-liability-insurance-law/index.html](https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/06/us/san-jose-guns-liability-insurance-law/index.html).