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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

S.B. 16
135th General Assembly

Final Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 16's Bill Analysis](#)

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Wilson

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Suveksha Bhujel, Economist, and other LBO staff

Highlights

- The bill's provisions regarding immunity for perishable food donations could result in a reduction in civil liability cases brought forward. If this occurs, there could be a decrease in related court costs.
- The bill addresses changes to the victims' rights law made by H.B. 343 of the 134th General Assembly and clarifies the requirements and procedures for various entities in the criminal justice system.

Detailed Analysis

Immunity associated with perishable food donation

Under current law, a person who makes a perishable food donation to a nonprofit is only immune from civil liability for that donation if the nonprofit provides the food free of charge. The bill extends that immunity to a person who donates perishable food to a nonprofit that charges individuals in need an amount sufficient to cover the cost of handling the perishable food distributed to them. The bill could result in a reduction in civil liability cases brought forward, which could decrease related court costs. The total impact would depend on the number of potential cases immune under the bill.

Changes related to victims' rights

The bill makes a series of changes to correct inconsistencies, ambiguities, oversights, and technical issues created by the passage of H.B. 343 and S.B. 288 of the 134th General Assembly. Overall, these changes to the victims' rights law, also known as Marsy's Law, clarify when and how protections are needed for victims, including notification processes and who is responsible for certain duties under the law. This outcome would ease the administrative burden for various criminal justice entities by increasing efficiencies in complying with certain requirements and procedures, such as those relating to redaction of victim information. The bill also notably shifts

the responsibility of creating the required victims' rights request form and related costs from the Ohio Supreme Court to the Office of the Attorney General. Under the bill, the Attorney General would be required to provide access to a sample victims' rights request form instead requiring the Office to create the form which would allow existing materials to be utilized from other organizations, for instance, the Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center. The bill declares an emergency and will go into immediate effect.