

Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Peterson and Dobos

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

The bill appropriates \$2.0 million in each fiscal year of the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium from the GRF to award grants of up to \$15,000 under the Employee Mobility Program, which the bill creates.

Detailed Analysis

The bill appropriates \$2.0 million in each fiscal year of the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium under GRF appropriation item 195585, Mobility Program, for use by the Department of Development (DEV) to award grants under the Employee Mobility Program, which the bill creates. Under the bill, the Employee Mobility Program would provide grants of up to \$15,000 per year for eligible employers to offset the cost of chartering commuter vehicles for their employees. Grants may be used to pay the eligible transportation expenses of employees, up to \$2,500 per employee annually. The bill specifies that, if possible, the first ten selected grant recipients would include two employers from each of the following areas: central, northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast Ohio.

To qualify for the grant program, an employer must agree to pay at least 50% of employees' eligible transportation expenses itself and to comply with certain reporting requirements, commit to participate in the program for at least a one-year period, and the employer's place of employment, the basis of which the eligible transportation expenses are incurred, is located in a county with a population of less than 50,000. The employer must also require its employees to complete quarterly surveys about the grant-funded transportation and agree to file quarterly reports that include specified information. Under the bill, DEV will disburse grants on a quarterly basis after receiving the required reports. Each disbursement would equal 50% of the employer's actual eligible transportation expenses incurred each quarter. The bill

requires DEV to discontinue disbursements for the remainder of the grant period if an employer fails to comply with reporting requirements for any quarter.

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