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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 647
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. J. Miller

Amanda Goodman, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Requires a county auditor to transfer certain funds from the county's dog and kennel fund to municipal corporations within the county that employ dog wardens.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The bill requires a county auditor to transfer to a municipal corporation all dog registration fees paid by the residents of that municipal corporation if the municipal corporation employs one or more dog wardens, deputies, poundkeepers, or other employees who implement and enforce ordinances to control dogs. The municipal corporation must use the funds so received to pay for the compensation of those who implement and enforce dog laws. The county auditor must make the payments from the county's dog and kennel fund.¹

Under current law, a person who owns a dog generally must register the dog with their county auditor and pay the required registration fees.² Each county auditor must deposit those registration fees in the county treasury into a special fund called the "dog and kennel fund." Money in each county's fund is used for all of the following:

1. Defraying the cost of furnishing all blanks, records, tags, nets, and other equipment;
2. Paying the compensation of county dog wardens, deputies, poundkeepers, and other employees necessary to carry out and enforce Ohio's laws governing dogs;
3. Defraying the necessary expenses of registering, seizing, impounding, and destroying dogs;

¹ R.C. 955.221 and 955.20.

² R.C. 955.01, not in the bill.

- 4. Covering any additional expenses incurred by the county auditor when contracting for a third party to provide online registration services; and
- 5. If there is a surplus of \$2,000 or more each December, transferring that surplus to the county humane society.³

Under the bill, the county auditor still must pay these costs.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	07-29-24

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³ R.C. 955.20.