



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Terry Steele

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 34 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Passed by the House

Sponsor: Reps. Hambley and Ryan

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Authorizes delivery of certain notices by ordinary mail and Internet identifier instead of certified mail

State and Local Fiscal Highlights

- Allowing state agencies, local governments, and certain boards, commissions, and officers to deliver particular types of notices by the ways allowed in the bill, such ordinary mail, email, or other mode of Internet communication, could reduce mailing costs for the affected jurisdictions. The bill lists 29 situations where the alternative notification procedure may be used.
- The savings in notification costs will depend on the circumstances where these alternative notification options are used. As a point of comparison, the certified mail rate established by the U.S. Postal Service for 2017 ranges from \$4.61 to \$6.59 for a one ounce certified letter.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill allows for certain required notifications to be made by means of a combination of ordinary mail and Internet identifier of record, which is defined in the bill as an electronic mail address, or any other designation used for self-identification or routing in Internet communications. In most cases, current law allows only delivery by certified mail. The bill establishes 29 different types of notifications that fall into the permissive authority of the bill and where the alternative ways of notification may be used. Please see the table in the *LSC Bill Analysis* for a list of these notifications.

Overall, sending the required notifications by the alternative ways allowed under the bill could reduce certified mailing costs to the state, political subdivisions, or other entities. The extent of these potential savings would depend on a variety of factors, mostly the situations in which this authority would be used. There could be cases in which a required notice would fall under the authority granted in the bill, but the entity sending the notice may decide to send the notice by certified mail. The cost of certified mail for 2017 ranges from \$4.61 to \$6.59 for a one ounce certified letter. If a traditional return receipt for certified mail is requested, the certified mail cost would be \$6.59, however, if electronic confirmation delivery is used, the certified mail cost would

be \$4.61. As an example, Cuyahoga County estimates that approximately 85% of all required certified mail deliveries are returned unclaimed or undeliverable in a typical year. At an average cost of \$5.00 per mailing to the county, the cost of these unclaimed or undeliverable items adds up to an estimated \$500,000 annually.

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