



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Bill Analysis

Amanda George and Tom Wert

### **S.B. 299**

132nd General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Sens.** Gardner and O'Brien, Peterson, Brown, Manning, Schiavoni, Dolan, Sykes, Hottinger

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

### **Allowable uses of money in the Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund**

- Allows equipment for the protection and preservation of Lake Erie to be purchased with proceeds from the existing Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund, which may currently be used only for the following purposes:
  - Paying costs of capital facilities for parks and recreation under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources; and
  - For participation in capital facilities for parks and recreation with the federal government, municipal corporations, counties, or other governmental agencies.

### **Additional appropriations for Lake Erie water quality programs**

#### **Main Operating Budget Act**

- For fiscal year 2019, appropriates an additional \$3.5 million (for a total of \$6.8 million) to the Soil and District Water Support Fund for the Department of Agriculture in the main operating budget.
- Earmarks that additional amount to support county soil and water conservation districts in the Western Lake Erie Basin for staffing costs and to assist in soil testing and nutrient management plan development.

## Capital budget funding

### Department of Higher Education – Sea Grant–Stone Laboratory

- Appropriates \$2.65 million to the Higher Education Improvement Fund for the Sea Grant–Stone Laboratory in the capital budget act for the FY 2019-FY 2020 biennium.
- Earmarks the appropriation to be used by the Ohio Sea Grant Program to construct new laboratory space at Stone Laboratory and to buy new in-lake monitoring equipment, including real-time buoys and water treatment plant monitoring sondes.
- Increases the amount of original obligations that the Ohio Public Facilities Commission is authorized to issue and sell by \$2 million, from \$429 million to \$431 million, to pay the costs of capital facilities for state-supported and state-assisted intuitions of higher education.

### Department of Agriculture – Soil and Water Phosphorous Program

- Appropriates \$20 million during the FY 2019-FY 2020 capital biennium to the Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund for the Soil and Water Phosphorus Program.
- Requires the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Lake Erie Commission and the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission, to establish programs that assist in reducing total phosphorus and dissolved reactive phosphorus in sub-watersheds of the Western Lake Erie Basin.
- Requires priority to be given to sub-watersheds that are highest in total phosphorus and dissolved reactive phosphorus nutrient loading.
- Requires that the \$20 million appropriation be used to support the programs described above through the purchase of equipment, including but not limited to, the following:
  - Equipment for subsurface placement of nutrients into the soil;
  - Equipment for nutrient placement based on geographic information system data;
  - Equipment for soil testing;
  - Equipment for implementing variable rate technology;
  - Equipment for implementing manure transformation and manure conversion technologies;



- Tributary monitoring equipment; and
- Water management and edge-of-field drainage management equipment.
- Increases the amount of original obligations that the Treasurer of State is authorized to issue and sell by \$20 million, from \$119 million to \$139 million, to provide sufficient money to pay costs of capital facilities and equipment for parks and recreation purposes and protection or preservation of Lake Erie and its tributaries.

**Department of Natural Resources – Healthy Lake Erie Initiative**

- Increases appropriations under Ohio Parks and Natural Resources Fund by \$10 million for a total of \$20 million for the FY 2019-FY 2020 capital biennium.
- Earmarks this additional amount to support projects that enhance efforts to reduce open lake disposal of dredged material into Lake Erie by 2020.
- Increases the amount of original obligations that the Ohio Public Facilities Commission is authorized to issue and sell by \$10 million, from \$24 million to \$34 million, to provide sufficient money to pay costs of capital facilities that enhance the use or enjoyment of Ohio's natural resources.

**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-09-18

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