



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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Sub. H.B. 324*

130th General Assembly

(As Reported by H. State and Local Government)

Reps. Duffey and C. Hagan, Amstutz, Blair, Butler, Henne, Landis, Roegner, Schuring, Sears, Terhar, Bishoff

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, which is to be administered by the Director of Administrative Services.
- Requires the Director to adopt rules to administer the Program, including grant eligibility criteria.
- Requires the Director to disburse a \$10,000 grant to each local government that meets the grant eligibility criteria, but specifies that the total amount of grants awarded cannot exceed the amount that can be funded with appropriations made by the General Assembly for the Program.
- Makes an appropriation of \$12.5 million in FY 2015 and \$12.5 million in FY 2016 for the Program.
- Requires that the Director use up to \$250,000 of the appropriation item in FY 2015 for administration and maintenance of the Program and for administration of the grants, with the remainder of the appropriation item to be used by the Director to disburse grant awards to eligible counties, townships, and municipal corporations.

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House State and Local Government Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program

The bill establishes the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program in the Department of Administrative Services. The Program must be administered by the Director of Administrative Services. The Director is required to adopt rules under the Administrative Procedure Act (which affords notice and a public hearing) as are necessary to administer the Program.¹ The rules must include all of the following:

(1) Grant eligibility criteria that must include a requirement that a grantee be a county, township, or municipal corporation, which are collectively defined by the bill as a "local government," or a regional planning commission, metropolitan planning organization, or regional council of government;²

(2) Specifications for what "data points" must be included by local governments in order for the local governments to be eligible for the grant funding;

(3) A requirement that electronic data satisfying the grant criteria be posted on the Internet, by the local government or the state, in an open format that is capable of being searched, viewed, and downloaded by the public;

(4) Specifications for consistent formatting and technology standards for electronic data satisfying the grant eligibility criteria; and

(5) Specifications for accounting standards for data provided by local governments.

Required data points may be different for each type of local government.

The bill requires that the Director disburse a grant of \$10,000 to each local government, regional planning commission, metropolitan planning organization, or regional council of government that meets the grant eligibility criteria established by the Director. Grants must be awarded in the order in which the grantees have met the eligibility criteria. The total amount of grants awarded cannot exceed the amount that can be funded with appropriations made by the General Assembly for this purpose.³

¹ R.C. 149.60(B).

² R.C. 149.60(A).

³ R.C. 149.60(C).



Appropriation

The bill creates GRF appropriation item 100501, Local Government Information Exchange Grants, with an appropriation of \$12.5 million in FY 2015 and \$12.5 million in FY 2016. The bill specifies that the bill's appropriations are in addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2014-FY 2015 biennium and the FY 2016-FY 2017 biennium. Up to \$250,000 of the appropriation item in FY 2015 must be used by the Director of Administrative Services for administration and maintenance of the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program and for administration of the grants. The remainder of the appropriation item must be used by the Director of Administrative Services to disburse grant awards to eligible counties, townships, municipal corporations, regional planning commissions, metropolitan planning organizations, or regional councils of governments.⁴

Within the limits set forth in the bill, the Director of Budget and Management must establish accounts indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation made in the bill, and determine the form and manner in which appropriation accounts must be maintained. Expenditures from the FY 2015 appropriations must be accounted for as though made in H.B. 59 (the main operating budget) of the 130th General Assembly. The FY 2015 appropriations are subject to all provisions of H.B. 59 that are generally applicable to such appropriations.

Expenditures from the FY 2016 appropriation contained in the bill must be accounted for as though made in the main operating appropriations act of the 131st General Assembly. The FY 2016 appropriation is subject to all provisions of the main operating appropriations act of the 131st General Assembly that are generally applicable to such appropriations.⁵

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	10-29-13
Reported, H. State & Local Gov't	---

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⁴ Section 2.

⁵ Section 3.

