

Analysis and Summary

Introduction

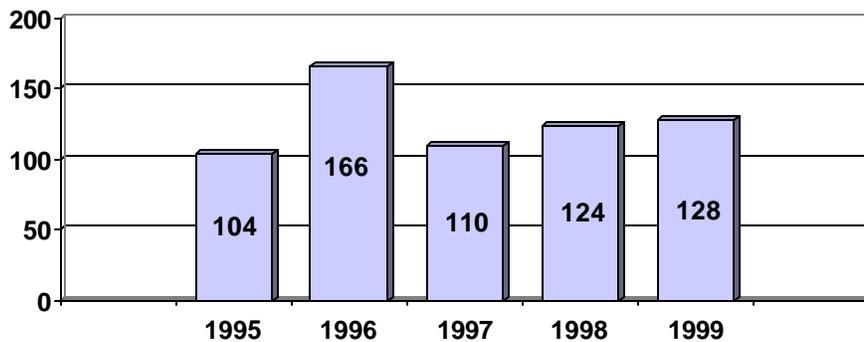
In 1995, the Legislative Budget Office (LBO) produced the first local impact statement (LIS) as required by S.B. 33 of the 120th General Assembly. The purpose of local impact statements is to provide members of the General Assembly with more thorough and timely information on the potential impacts of proposed legislation on counties, municipalities, townships, and school districts (referred to generically as “local governments” hereafter). The LIS information is designed to allow legislators to make better-informed decisions on bills that could affect local governments.

This article will examine the bills that were enacted in 1999 to study how their local impact and other factors have influenced the passage of legislation.

Bills Becoming Law

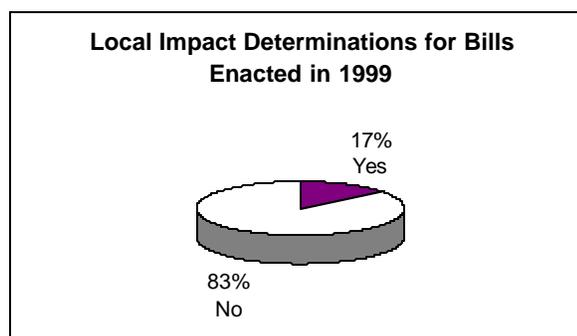
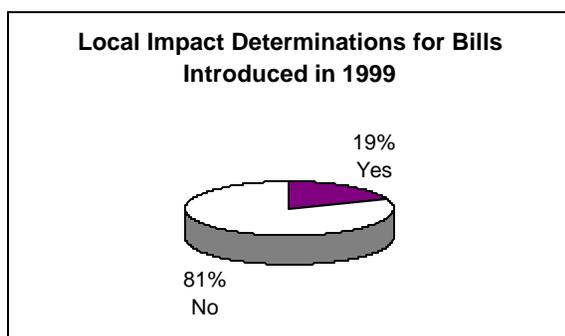
In calendar year 1999, the 123rd General Assembly passed 91 House bills and 37 Senate bills that became law, for a total of 128. The total number of enacted bills over the past five years has varied from a low of 104 in 1995 to a high of 166 in 1996.

Bills Passed and Becoming Law, 1995 – 1999



Bills with Local Impact (YES) and without Local Impact (NO)

(Based upon LBO determinations for bills “As Introduced”)



Of the 128 bills passed in 1999 that became law:

- * 108 were initially determined by LBO to have no local impact
- * 20 were initially determined by LBO to have a local impact¹
- * 2 bills had a local impact “As Introduced,” but are estimated to have minimal or no local impact “As Enacted”
- * 4 bills *did not* have a local impact “As Introduced,” but were estimated to have a local impact “As Enacted”
- * 22 bills had a local impact “As Enacted”

Impact of the LIS

Table 1 shows that 23% or 178 of the 761 bills introduced in 1999 did have a local impact “As Introduced.” Seventy-seven percent of bills had no local impact “As Introduced.” Of the 128 enacted bills, 22 or 17% had a local impact.

1. Please see the introduction for an explanation of the criteria LBO uses when making local impact determinations.

Table 1: Introduced Versus Passed Legislation for 1999 that Became Law

The Numbers			
Version of Bill	# of Yes	# of No	TOTAL
Introduced	178	583	761
Enacted	22	106	128

The Percentages			
Version of Bill	% of Yes	% of No	TOTAL
Introduced	23	77	100
Enacted	17	83	100

The average percentage of bills enacted from 1995 to 1999 that had a local impact “As Enacted” is 20 percent. Therefore, it appears that about 15% to 20% of the bills passed by the Ohio Legislature have a negative fiscal impact on local governments. Unfortunately, the numbers do not indicate the average overall magnitude of the fiscal impact created by this enacted legislation. Conversely, the data offer no insight as to the overall direction and magnitude of fiscal impact from bills not tagged as having a negative local impact.

Out of the 128 bills enacted in 1999, four bills were altered after the initial determination so that they had a local impact “As Enacted.” Alternately, two bills were changed to remove a local impact. This reverses a trend from the previous four years: for the first time more bills changed from no local impact to having local impact than the other way around. Yet, over the five-year period, 59% of the bills whose impact changed were altered so that they did not have a local impact.

Table 2 displays the number of bills with altered local impact “As Enacted”

Table 2: Local Effects Changing from Introduction to Enactment 1995-1999

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total
Bills altered so that certain elements, which prompted a “Yes” local impact determination, were eliminated from the enacted bill.	3	4	2	5	2	16
Bills with a “No” local impact determination altered so that the changes made created a fiscal impact on local governments.	2	3	0	2	4	11