

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

123rd General Assembly of Ohio

Ohio Legislative Budget Office: a nonpartisan agency providing fiscal research for the Ohio General Assembly
77 South High Street, 8th Floor, Columbus, OH 43266-0347 ✦ Phone: (614) 466-8734
E-mail: BudgetOffice@LBO.STATE.OH.US ✦ Internet Web Site: <http://www.lbo.state.oh.us/>

BILL: [Sub. H.B. 559](#) **DATE:** **May 25, 2000**

STATUS: **As Enacted – Effective September 21, 2000** **SPONSOR:** [Rep. Coughlin](#)

LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: **No** **Current version includes additional local costs not in the introduced version**

CONTENTS: **Requires candidates for the Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, and Toledo municipal court clerk positions to be chosen in a partisan primary and changes the authority for setting the salary of municipal court clerks in Lorain County**

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	FY 2000	FY 2001	FUTURE YEARS
Lorain County			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	- 0 -	Increase in the thousands or tens of thousands of dollars	Increase in the thousands or tens of thousands of dollars
Lucas and Summit County			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	- 0 -	- 0 -	Potential negligible increase in primary election years
Cities of Avon Lake, Elyria, Lorain, Oberlin, and Vermillion			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	- 0 -	Increase in the thousands or tens of thousands of dollars	Increase in the thousands or tens of thousands of dollars

Note: For most local governments, the fiscal year is the calendar year. The school district fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

- Depending on the current salaries for the clerks of courts as set by the respective municipalities in Lorain County, the bill could result in varying increases in salary and PERS costs for the affected cities and Lorain County.
- Potential negligible increase in the cost of printing primary ballots for Lucas County and Summit County.



Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Clerks of Courts Salaries in Lorain County

The bill changes current law so that municipal court clerks in Lorain County are paid eight-five percent of the salary of a judge of the court, as set forth in state law, rather than being paid compensation determined by the legislative authority of the city. There are five municipal courts in Lorain County that could be affected by this change: Avon Lake, Elyria, Lorain, Oberlin, and Vermillion municipal courts. Under current law, the city must pay three-fifths of the clerk's salary and Lorain County would have to pay two-fifths of the salary. In CY 2000, a full-time municipal court judge must be paid \$94,250. Therefore, the Clerk's salary could be \$80,113. Depending on the current salaries set by the respective municipalities, this change could result in a cost increase, in the thousands or tens of thousands of dollars, for the affected cities and Lorain County. The total cost increase would include the employer share of PERS contribution.

Electing Clerks of Courts in Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, and Toledo

The bill requires candidates seeking to be on the ballot in the general election, as a candidate for either Barberton or Cuyahoga Falls municipal court clerk, to first be selected in a partisan primary if they are affiliated with a political party. Currently, municipal court clerk candidates need only submit a nominating petition to be put on the ballot in the general election.

There could be a negligible increase in the cost of printing ballots to include additional candidates names on the ballot in primary elections. In primary election years where municipal judges are on the ballot, Summit county could have an additional cost. Including additional candidates would result in only a very small increase in ballot printing costs.

*LSC fiscal staff: Carol A. Robison, Budget Analyst
Alexander C. Heckman, Budget/Policy Analyst*

\\Budget_office\isis_vol1.lbo\FN123\HB0559EN.doc