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## ***Detailed Fiscal Analysis***

### **Provisions of the Bill**

Currently, Ohio law allows the board of county commissioners, in any county in which there is a duly organized county agricultural society, to appropriate funds for the purchase and/or maintenance of land and/or facilities for fair sites. However, if the proposed expenditures will exceed \$50,000 in any year, Ohio law requires the county board of commissioners to submit a tax levy to the county's voters in order to pay for the proposed expenditures. HB 117 amends the current law by removing the levy requirement for expenditures above \$50,000 in a year.

### **Effects of the Bill**

- According to an Ohio Department of Agriculture official, in FY 1995, 54 counties appropriated less than \$10,000 for fair expenditures and 28 counties appropriated more than \$10,000 but less than \$50,000. Six counties appropriated at least \$50,000 for fair expenditures in 1996. Under the bill, counties that have the funds and are not currently appropriating more than \$50,000 could choose to increase expenditures.
- Currently, there are 94 fairs operating in Ohio, excluding the Ohio State Fair. Eighty-seven of the fairs are run by the counties and 7 are run by independent agriculture societies that often will receive county funds. In FY 1996, an average small fair generated \$30,000 in gross receipts, the average medium-sized fair generated over \$700,000, and a large fair generated between \$1 and \$2 million in gross receipts. Under HB 117, counties that chose to appropriate more than \$50,000 in a year to build or improve fair facilities, could potentially increase their revenues a minimal or significant amount.
- Under the bill, counties would have many of the same options as before, the main difference is that counties which chose to borrow money for expenditures above \$50,000 would have more flexibility in financing. This could result in higher yearly payments, but a lower overall cost for the project.

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