Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

122 nd General Assembly of Ohio

BILL: **Sub. H.B. 219 (LSC 122 0380-1)** DATE: **May 20, 1997**

STATUS: **In House State Government** SPONSOR: **Rep. Reid**

LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: **No — Minimal cost**

CONTENTS: **Allows free registration for law enforcement canines of certain agencies**

State Fiscal Highlights

STATE FUND	FY 1998	FY 1999	FUTURE YEARS
State Highway Patrol			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential savings of up to $140 or more	Potential savings of up to $140 or more	Potential savings of up to $140 or more

- The State Highway Patrol would save the costs of dog registrations (certificates and licenses). According to a contactperson from the department, the state uses 14 dogs for narcotics detection and other specialty uses, such as explosives and accelerants detection. The number of dogs used for general duty alone in the state is unknown, but is believed to be negligible. County auditors' offices ordinarily charge from $2 to $10 for each dog registration, so the state would save up to $140 each year.

Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	FY 1998	FY 1999	FUTURE YEARS
Counties			
Revenues	Minimal loss	Minimal loss	Minimal loss
Expenditures	Minimal savings	Minimal savings	Minimal savings
Other Local Governments			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Minimal savings	Minimal savings	Minimal savings

- Counties would lose the revenues they would ordinarily have obtained through regular license fees for dogs used in law enforcement. Counties would most likely be responsible for costs of registration materials. However, this loss in revenue would be minimal. Currently counties charge from $2 to $10 for registrations.

- Other than counties, the Cleveland Police Department probably has the most law enforcement canines at about five – this would be an expenditure savings to the City of Cleveland of no more than $50.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Background of the Bill

This bill allows the State Highway Patrol, county sheriffs' offices, law enforcement agencies of municipalities and townships, and joint township police districts to register dogs used for law enforcement without a fee. Specifically, these law enforcement agencies may choose between registering their dogs as law enforcement canines without a fee, or obtaining a regular annual registration. The bill also states that, upon proper proof of loss, a duplicate certificate and accompanying tag must be issued at no fee. Currently, registrations cost $2 to $10 apiece.

Law enforcement canines are classified into three categories: specialty, general, and dual purpose duty. Specialty dogs are used for activities such as narcotics detection and explosives and accelerant detection. General duty canines, or utility dogs, are used for tracking and general searches. Dual purpose canines perform duties of both specialty and general duty dogs. According to the state contact of the North American Police Working Dogs Association, the majority of dogs used in law enforcement are classified as dual purpose dogs. In Ohio 267 dogs are certified for law enforcement. However, this representative is aware of at least 150-200 other dogs used for such purposes that are not certified.

Potential Savings and Costs

The State Highway Patrol would no longer cover the costs of registrations for law enforcement dogs. According to a contact person from the department, only 14 dogs are used for specialty services – the number of general duty canines could not be obtained. Therefore, the state would save up to $140 or more for FYs 1998 and 1999, unless more dogs are obtained.

Counties are responsible for accepting and filing dog registrations and so they would be the only entities to lose money under this bill. Counties would lose the revenues they would have obtained if the law enforcement dogs had been registered as regular dogs. However, due to the small number of dogs used for law enforcement, the loss in revenues would be small.

In Ohio the highest concentration of law enforcement canines is in Cuyahoga and Franklin counties; Cuyahoga County has 15-20 dogs for such use, Franklin uses 12 dogs, and the Cleveland Police Department uses about five dogs. The State Highway Patrol's 14 dogs are located in different counties, so the impact for any one county would be minimal.

❑ *LBO staff: Sybil N. Haney, Budget/Policy Analyst*

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