
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Provisions of the Bill

Currently, under section 311.07 of the Revised Code, county sheriffs may only call upon fire and/or law enforcement assistance from political subdivisions in adjoining counties and only in the event of riot, insurrection, or invasion.

The bill would allow sheriffs to request and receive help from political subdivisions anywhere in the state. The bill eliminates restrictions on when such assistance can be provided and provides that law enforcement officials and firefighters acting outside of their normal jurisdiction still be covered for benefits and rights, such as workers compensation, pension benefits and other rights or benefits, to which they may be entitled as incidents of their regular employment.

Under the bill and under current law, the county requesting and receiving help must reimburse the cost of furnishing any aid to the political subdivision(s) providing the aid requested.

Currently, section 505.43 of the Revised Code only allows townships to contract for additional police protection in times of emergency. The bill would eliminate the restriction on when townships can contract for additional police protection.

The bill permits municipalities to enter into a contract to work in a multi-jurisdictional crime unit or to provide police protection to such units.

Effects of the Bill

Franklin County Sheriff's officials stated that the bill would have little to no practical effect on their activities. A Franklin County deputy sheriff indicated that Franklin County deputy sheriffs have responded to requests for help in the past few years in non-adjoining counties, including Lake and Coshocton counties, and would continue to do so in the future.

The Franklin County Sheriff's deputy stated that assistance is usually only requested by departments in circumstances such as possible riots at Ku Klux Klan rallies and at strikes or for natural disasters. All of these situations are currently covered by section 311.07 or other sections of the Revised Code. However, this bill could facilitate the use of multi-jurisdictional task forces to enforce drug laws, for example.

In addition, this bill could make the process for contracting for assistance from another county less expensive. For example, under current law, for the Franklin County Sheriff's Department to provide aid in Ross County, the Franklin County Sheriff might have to first contract with Pickaway County for service. Then, under the auspices of working for Pickaway County, Franklin County could contract with Ross County in order to provide assistance.

A Central Ohio municipal law director stated that the changes in section 505.43 of the Revised Code would likely have little effect on the activities of townships. Townships may already contract for police services under section 505.43 and other sections of the Revised Code allow political subdivisions to enter into mutual aid arrangements (i.e. section 5502.29) for

additional police and fire service. The official indicated that such mutual aid agreements are quite common.

Municipalities that chose to contract with other political subdivisions to work in a multi-jurisdictional task force could face increased costs. Under some circumstances, such contracting could reduce a municipality's expenditures.

Political subdivisions that utilized the bill's provisions to participate in multi-jurisdictional crime units could receive increased revenue. For example, members of a drug task force could obtain revenue from money or assets seized under drug forfeiture laws.

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