

# Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

122<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of Ohio

REVISED

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BILL: **S.B. 5** DATE: **February 11, 1997**  
STATUS: **As Introduced** SPONSOR: **Sen. Howard**  
LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: **Yes — Corrected after initial review**  
CONTENTS: **Establishes State training and continuing education for emergency service telecommunicators.**

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## State Fiscal Highlights

STATE FUND	FY 1998	FY 1990	FUTURE YEARS
<b>General Revenue Fund</b>			
Revenues	\$500,000 loss	\$450,000 loss	\$450,000 loss
Expenditures	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
<b>Emergency Service Telecommunicator Training Fund</b>			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	\$500,000 increase	\$450,000 increase	\$450,000 increase

- FY 1998 costs include development and implementation of the program in the first year.
- FY 1999 and subsequent years include training for new employees, continuing education and administration.
- The bill appropriates \$500,000 in FYs 1998 and 1999 from non-GRF sources. However, the future source of funds for these appropriations is a transfer from the state's GRF.
- The bill does not include GRF appropriations.

## Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVTS	FY 1998	FY 1999	FUTURE YEARS
<b>General Revenue Fund</b>			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Up to \$856,000 increase	Up to \$1,284,000 increase	Up to \$1,284,000 increase

- Local government expenditures include mileage and overtime for those attending classes or their replacement.
- The cost estimates assume local governments choose not to conduct the training on site as permitted in the bill.



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## ***Detailed Fiscal Analysis***

This bill establishes a standard training certification and continuing education program for emergency medical communicators. The standards for the initial training program and continuing education include the following:

- A minimum of 40 hours of instruction for new employees and 8 hours of instruction for continuing education, including training on: role of telecommunicator, effective communication skills, emergency service telecommunicator liability, telephone techniques, compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, addressing hysterical and suicidal callers, law enforcement terminology, emergency call processing guides for law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical service, radio techniques, disaster planning, scene safety and officer survival

All emergency telecommunicators must be certified within a year of program implementation and must participate in continuing education every two years thereafter. New employees have 12 months to get certified or they may no longer work as a telecommunicator.

The training programs must be offered at least 8 times per year, usually at different board approved vocational education centers around the state as well as by the State Board of Education. In addition to this, the emergency service providers may arrange the training on their own.

Financing for the mandated training will come from the newly established Emergency Service Telecommunicator Training Fund. Although monies for the Emergency Service Telecommunicator Fund will eventually come from a cash transfer from the General Revenue Fund, no GRF appropriations are present in the bill.

### ***STATE FISCAL EFFECTS***

#### **Training Estimates**

In the state of Ohio, there are 7,000 operators statewide with an annual turnover rate of 20%. Given these assumptions, approximately 1,400 new employees would need to undergo 40-hour training each year. Based on estimates from the State Vocational Education Department, a 40-hour class with an average of 20 students would cost \$60 per hour, resulting in a potential \$168,000 annual increase in expenditures.

$$(1400 \text{ new employees}) \times (40 \text{ hour course}) \times (\$60 \text{ for instruction per hour}) \div (20 \text{ students per class}) = \$ 168,000 \text{ annually}$$

The 8-hour continuing education program would be needed for half the employees every other year. So in a given year 3,500 operators would need the continued training. Based on estimates from the State Vocational Education Department, an 8-hour class with an average of twenty students would cost \$60 per hour, resulting in a potential \$84,000 annual increase in expenditures.

$$(3,500 \text{ employees}) \times (8 \text{ hour course}) \times (\$60 \text{ for instruction per hour}) = \$84,000 \text{ annually}$$

Administrative costs for developing and implementing the E.M.S. telecommunicator standard are estimated to be \$250,000 the first year and \$190,000 per year thereafter. All of these estimates assume no significant increase in personnel in the emergency telecommunicator field or significant responsibility changes for the operators.

The E.M.S. telecommunicator funding is unique when compared to the other adult training programs (like Fire and Emergency Medical Technician) funded by the state at a rate of \$8 per hour per student under the Adult Education line item.

Currently most states already have or are considering legislation on the creation of an EMS telecommunicator standard. The three common methods of funding the training are through state appropriations (10 states), local appropriation (10 states) and through revenues generated from a telephone tax (8 states). While training periods vary from state to state, the average number of hours is 40, a standard currently used in Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

### ***LOCAL FISCAL EFFECTS***

While local employers are not required to pay for the training expenses of EMS telecommunicators, they would incur additional costs for overtime pay and travel expenses. These positions require coverage 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Training will generally require overtime for either the person being trained or the person replacing the person in training. Overtime pay is based on the average starting salary for EMS telecommunicators of \$8.90 per hour and can vary greatly due to starting salaries ranging from \$6.50 to \$11.90 per hour.

Overtime costs for comprehensive employee training:

$$(1400 \text{ employees}) \times (\$8.90 \times 1.5 \text{ overtime rate}) \times (40 \text{ hours of training}) = \$747,600 \text{ in overtime costs}$$

Overtime costs for continuing education employee training:

$$(3500 \text{ employees}) \times (\$8.90 \times 1.5 \text{ overtime rate}) \times (8 \text{ hours of training}) = \$373,800 \text{ in overtime costs}$$

It is assumed that the training site will be no further than 50 miles roundtrip for employees. Further traveling distances can be expected for outlying areas and shorter travel distances for urban and suburban areas. Initial training requires five days of travel and continuing education requires one day of travel. Training for the five days is assumed to be broken up into five separate days.

For the first year costs, travel expenses can be estimated as:

$$(1400 \text{ employees}) \times (50 \text{ miles of travel per day}) \times (\$.31 \text{ per mile}) \times (5 \text{ days of travel}) = \$108,500$$

Continuing costs for travel expenses can be estimated as:

$$(1400 \text{ employees}) \times (50 \text{ miles of travel per day}) \times (\$.31 \text{ per mile}) \times (5 \text{ days of travel}) = \$108,500$$
$$(3500 \text{ employees}) \times (50 \text{ miles of travel per day}) \times (\$.31 \text{ per mile}) \times (1 \text{ day of travel}) = \$54,250$$

The cost estimates assume local governments choose not to conduct the training on site as permitted in the bill.

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