Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

122 nd General Assembly of Ohio

BILL:	**S.B. 51**	DATE:	**April 9, 1997**
STATUS:	**As Introduced**	SPONSOR:	**Sen. Espy**

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

CONTENTS: **Requires new assistant auditors in the Auditor of State's office to have a baccalaureate degree in accounting or a related field**

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on local governments.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Assistant auditors are responsible for auditing state and local entities, which number over 2300 agencies, as well as for performance auditing. The Auditor of State's office employs about 700 assistant auditors, most of which concentrate on audits of local agencies, with a few specializing in state agency audits. According to state personnel records, the average hourly wages for entry level auditors is about $13.00. This legislation would not immediately cause an increase in these salaries, nor would it apply to current assistant auditors.

During the 121st General Assembly, the Auditor of State's office began a large scale recruitment of people with bachelor's degrees in accounting, especially graduates with 3.5 or higher grade point averages. At the same time the office sought highly trained auditors, the Auditor of State centralized services and downsized staff levels. According to a spokesperson from the agency, auditors with accounting degrees tend to produce more thorough and less error-prone audits, and they spend less time doing these audits -- in 1996 auditors decreased audit time by 17% from 1995 for the same amount of work, due in large part to more highly trained auditors.

The bill would have no direct fiscal effect on the state and local governments.

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