
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

According to the Department of Health (DOH), most of what this bill legislates is already in practice in a voluntary system in place since the 1970s. DOH currently tests the waters of Lake Erie twice a week. This includes both state parks and private beaches. DOH does not test state-owned in-land lakes. These bodies of water are currently tested monthly by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Department of Health currently samples 33 beaches along Lake Erie. Twelve of these beaches are DNR operated state beaches. There are an additional 65 in-land beaches operated by DNR. Under this bill, DOH would be required to test the in-land state waters currently sampled by DNR. It is unclear as to whether this would duplicate the activities of DNR.

There are many fiscal uncertainties as a result of provisions in the bill. Currently, DOH only tests for bacteria levels in the water. These tests average \$47 per sample. This comprehensive cost includes all facets of the process such as personnel and lab costs. In the bill, however, DOH is required to test for bacteria *and* "other contaminant levels." It is unclear exactly how many contaminants the Department would be required to examine. Additionally, the cost of testing for certain contaminants varies greatly and could cost more than the \$47 for the bacteria testing.

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