
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill prohibits a village from being classified as a city as a result of persons in a detention facility counting towards the village's population. Ohio law requires that after each U.S. Census the Secretary of State classify each municipal corporation with a population under 5,000 as a village and each corporation with a population of 5,000 or more as a city. There are about 950 municipalities in Ohio, including about 250 cities and about 700 villages.

The changes in the bill could reduce costs for certain villages that would have to be incurred by those villages if they were reclassified as cities in the future. Specifically, the bill could prevent certain villages with large populations and with detention facilities that have sizeable populations from being classified as cities. Only Grafton Village is known to currently fit both these criteria. However, according to 1996 population estimates, there are 11 other villages with populations above 4,500 that could in the future be affected by the bill if a prison or jail were built in such villages.

Under Ohio law, statutory cities and villages have different elected officials and responsibilities. Therefore, when a village, based upon its population, is reclassified as a city, that village must incur certain costs to meet the statutory requirements. The major changes are that a statutory city must:

- Have an elected mayor, auditor, and treasurer
- Create a civil service commission and follow State Civil Service laws
- Allow and be subject to collective bargaining
- Initially, must have at least seven members on the legislative authority with at least 4 members elected from wards and 3 members elected at-large

Municipalities, which have adopted a charter, would not be required to make these statutory changes, but instead would have to follow the terms of the city's charter. There are about 218 chartered municipalities in Ohio, but only about 50 of those are villages.

□ LBO staff: Alexander C. Heckman, Budget/Policy Analyst

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