Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

123 rd General Assembly of Ohio

BILL:	**Sub. H.B. 204**	DATE:	**June 28, 1999**
STATUS:	**As Reported by Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs**	SPONSOR:	**Rep. Schuler**

LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: **No — Permissive**

CONTENTS: **Permits political subdivisions that comprise a joint fire district to pay the district's charges for ambulance or emergency medical services provided to their respective residents under certain circumstances**

State Fiscal Highlights

STATE FUND	FY 2000	FY 2001	FUTURE YEARS
Fire Marshal Fund (546)			
Revenues	Potential minimal loss	Potential minimal loss	Potential minimal loss thru 12/15/02
Expenditures	Potential minimal decrease	Potential minimal decrease	Potential minimal decrease thru 12/15/02
Fireworks Training and Education Fund (4LS)			
Revenues	Potential minimal loss	Potential minimal loss	Potential minimal loss thru 12/15/02
Expenditures	Potential minimal decrease	Potential minimal decrease	Potential minimal decrease thru 12/15/02

- Extending the moratorium on the issuance and transfer of fireworks licenses could decrease revenues and expenditures to two funds associated with the State Fire Marshal. The revenue and expenditures could be offsetting with no net effect on state finances.

Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	FY 1999	FY 2000	FUTURE YEARS
Certain Municipalities			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential increase	Potential increase	Potential increase
Townships			
Revenues	Potential gain greater than cost	Potential gain greater than cost	Potential gain greater than cost
Expenditures	Potential increase	Potential increase	Potential increase
Counties			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase

Note: For most local governments, the fiscal year is the calendar year. The school district fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

- Municipalities and townships that are, or become, members of a joint fire district and that choose to pay district service charges on behalf of their residents could incur additional costs. There are currently about 20 joint fire districts in the state.

- Townships could generate an increase in revenues by charging a fee for false alarms to residential buildings. Townships could have increased costs if they chose to utilize the procedures set forth in the bill for collecting the fees, but the revenue gain should be greater than the additional cost.

- Counties could face additional costs in order to enter unpaid fees as liens upon the tax duplicate.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Joint Fire Districts

Current law permits municipal corporations and townships, or two or more townships, to combine to form a joint fire district by adopting a joint resolution. The board of a joint fire district may establish reasonable charges for the use of ambulance or emergency medical services, and those charges may differ for residents and nonresidents of the district. In addition, the board of a joint fire district may waive all or part of the charge for any resident of the district.

The bill permits two or more municipalities to form a joint fire district. The bill permits political subdivisions that create a joint fire district to allow member subdivisions to pay any charges for service on behalf of their residents. The bill requires residents to pay any charges for service they receive from the district, unless the district board has agreed to waive the charges or the relevant political subdivision has agreed to pay charges for its residents in the resolution creating the fire district. (Sec. 505.371(C)(2)).

Any joint fire district already in existence when the bill goes into effect may amend its joint resolution to permit any of the political subdivisions involved to agree to pay those charges for their residents. Municipalities and townships that are, or become, members of a joint fire district and that choose to pay district service charges on behalf of their residents could incur additional costs. The actual cost could vary significantly, depending upon the fee charged by a joint district and the number of service charges that a particular subdivision had to pay on behalf of its residents. There are about 20 joint fire districts in the state.

Fee for False Alarms

Under current law, when a fire district or department in which a township participates responds to more than one false fire alarm within thirty days at a commercial establishment, the township may fine the owner or lessee. The bill expands this provision by permitting townships to fine individuals for false alarms at private residences.

Essentially, the bill expands the ability of townships to recover some of the costs of responding to false alarms. This could mean increased fine revenue for the townships. If the number of fines charged for false alarms increased, then townships a additional costs in order to issue and recover the fines. However, the $300 fine should more than offset any additional cost. It seems reasonable to assume that a township would not choose to collect additional fines unless it was advantageous to do so. Counties could incur costs in order to enter unpaid false alarm fines from townships on the tax duplicate.

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