
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Overview

This bill establishes new record-keeping requirements for dealers in scrap copper, scrap aluminum siding, or scrap catalytic converters (defined by the bill as "valued scrap metal"). These records must be open for inspection by law enforcement at all reasonable times. Specifically, each dealer in valued scrap metal must maintain accurate and complete records regarding all valued scrap metal purchased or received by the dealer in the course of daily business. Scrap copper dealers are required to maintain a separate registry of persons from whom the dealer purchases or receives 35 pounds or more of copper or copper alloy that has been used for transmission of electric energy or in telephone or other communication devices. Dealers must display the valued scrap metal in plain sight for at least ten days. Finally, the bill requires dealers to obtain written parental consent before purchasing or receiving valued scrap metal from minors.

Fiscal Effects

The bill prohibits any dealer in valued scrap metal from failing to keep the appropriate records or knowingly record false information in the records. Current law, unchanged by the bill, includes a fine of \$25 to \$1,000 and the costs of prosecution for violators of the Secondhand Dealers Law. The fine is consistent with an unclassified misdemeanor. Therefore, if there were additional prosecutions as a result of this bill, there may be a minimal increase in county and municipal adjudication and prosecution expenses. Presumably, fine and court cost revenue would offset some or all of any increase in costs for these entities. Fines collected for violations of the Revised Code remain in the county of prosecution and are forwarded to the county general fund. If there are additional prosecutions, it is also possible that the state may gain a negligible amount of state court cost revenue. For misdemeanors, the GRF receives \$15 per case and the Victims of Crime/Reparations Fund (Fund 4020) receives \$9 per case.

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