

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

127th General Assembly of Ohio

Ohio Legislative Service Commission
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BILL: **Am. H.B. 244** DATE: **March 10, 2008**
STATUS: **As Passed by the House** SPONSOR: **Rep. Brinkman**
LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: **No — Permissive**
CONTENTS: **To authorize townships to relocate overhead cables, wires, and appurtenant equipment underground upon petition and recoup costs via special assessment**

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	FY 2008	FY 2009	FUTURE YEARS
Townships			
Revenues	Potential offsetting gain in assessments	Potential offsetting gain in assessments	Potential offsetting gain in assessments
Expenditures	Potential decrease in costs to bury overhead cables; potential increase in administrative costs for petitioner hearing	Potential decrease in costs to bury overhead cables; potential increase in administrative costs for petitioner hearing	Potential decrease in costs to bury overhead cables; potential increase in administrative costs for petitioner hearing

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

- The bill authorizes townships, upon petition, to relocate overhead cables, wires, and other equipment underground, and authorizes townships to assess affected properties for the cost of the relocation project and to provide for the payment of interest on unpaid assessments.
- The bill requires the township to schedule and give notice to the affected landowners of a hearing on the petition. The hearing must be held not more than 30 days after the trustees were notified of the petition, which could result in some administrative costs for conducting this hearing if no such other township hearings were scheduled during this timeframe.



Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill authorizes townships, upon petition, to relocate overhead cables, wires, and other equipment underground, and authorizes townships to assess abutting and benefited properties for the cost of the relocation project and to provide for the payment of interest on unpaid assessments. Under current law, townships are responsible for the costs of burying the cables. The bill would permit townships to pay the initial costs of burying the cables, and then assess those affected residents through their property taxes to pay for this work. This could reduce costs to any townships that wished to bury any overhead cables since the affected residents will now be assessed for the costs. The bill also contains a provision that allows townships, by resolution, to waive the payments for all the assessed lands and pay the aggregate amount of the assessments for that year out of township general funds, except any interest on unpaid assessments. In a conforming change to current law regarding interest owed on unpaid street light assessments, the bill states that interest owed on these types of projects also cannot be paid from township general funds.

The bill also requires townships to schedule and give notice to the affected landowners of a hearing on the petition. The hearing must be held not more than 30 days after the trustees are notified of the petition, which could result in some administrative costs for conducting this hearing if no such other township hearings were scheduled during this timeframe.

LSC fiscal staff: Terry Steele, Budget Analyst

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