
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Bill overview

The resolution would replace the current Apportionment Board of seven members with the Ohio Apportionment Commission, consisting of seven members, four of which must be appointed by the leaders of the General Assembly, and three of which must be appointed unanimously by the first four. In cases where members cannot be unanimously selected, the resolution provides an alternative appointment process. Persons who have, within ten years, held or have been party-nominated candidates for state or federal office would be prohibited from serving. Once appointed, members of the Apportionment Commission are prohibited from running as candidates for the Ohio General Assembly at the first general election after the adoption of a new Congressional or General Assembly plan.

Fiscal effect

Under the resolution, the General Assembly would be required to appropriate whatever funds it deems necessary for the Commission to complete its task. Under the previous redistricting process, the General Assembly provided GRF funding for the Legislative Task Force on Redistricting. The General Assembly would also be required to appropriate amounts to defend the adopted Congressional and General Assembly plan from any lawsuit. As under current practice, the Attorney General would be responsible for defending it.

There would also be costs associated with the required advertising of this issue in a newspaper of general circulation in each county. The costs of advertising would depend on the length of the amendment. As a recent example, advertising costs for State Issue 1, the referendum on Sub. S.B. 16 that was to have been placed on the November 6, 2007 ballot, were about \$317,000. This included costs incurred in 63 of 88 counties, before the measure was invalidated. While the language of this resolution would likely be shorter than that of State Issue 1, it can reasonably be assumed that the total advertising costs would be in the range of \$300,000. Furthermore, as this would be a statewide ballot matter, the state would incur costs for ballot printing.

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