

time. The bill would compel any political subdivision that voluntarily enters into a contract to pay Fairfield County for future contracted services. Legislative Service Commission fiscal staff estimates that those localities will collectively pay Fairfield County around \$32,900 annually for the provision of emergency management services. It appears that these moneys would likely be used by Fairfield County to fund new emergency management equipment and communications systems and/or to fulfill federal grant cash match requirements.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Local fiscal effects

Provision of emergency management services

The bill clarifies the circumstances under which a political subdivision is required to pay for contracted emergency management services. By all accounts, the bill is intended to specifically address the view of the Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney's Office asserting that political subdivisions are not required to pay the Fairfield County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for the provision of emergency management services. Through conversations with emergency management practitioners, LSC fiscal staff has determined that this is not a statewide issue, as most other local jurisdictions appear to abide by currently accepted practices of paying for contracted emergency management services.

In years past, the Fairfield County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security has had contracts in place with other political subdivisions located within Fairfield County under which the former provided emergency management services to the latter, i.e., planning for, and responding to, all-hazards emergencies. To date, Fairfield County apparently has never sought payment for those services, but wishes to do so at this time. The bill would compel any political subdivision that voluntarily enters into a contract to pay Fairfield County for future contracted services.

The state's political subdivisions, defined for the purposes of the Emergency Management Law as a county, municipality, or township, are required to have emergency response protocols in place. A municipality or township is permitted to enter into an agreement with a county or regional emergency management agency, but is not required to do so. Based on conversations with staff of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, LSC fiscal staff has discerned that it is typically less expensive for a municipality or township to contract with a county or regional emergency management agency rather than establish and maintain its own program for emergency management.

Fairfield County and related localities

Earlier this year, all emergency management agency directors statewide received an electronic mail from the Emergency Management Association of Ohio (EMO), the intent of which was to approximate an emergency management "cost" per citizen for federal grant application purposes. Response was voluntary. Based on those responses, the EMO determined that the statewide average emergency management expense per person was about 25 cents. It appears that the Fairfield County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security intends to use this statewide average per

person expense as part of their formula for determining the amount that each participating municipality and township will be charged annually for the provision of county emergency management services.

Using the above-noted EMO average cost per person, and the population figures of the participating municipalities and townships located in Fairfield County, LSC fiscal staff estimates that those localities will collectively pay Fairfield County around \$32,900 annually for the provision of emergency management services. Table 1 immediately below identifies the likely participating municipalities and townships, as well as the estimated annual cost of county-delivered emergency management services. It appears that these moneys would likely be used by Fairfield County to fund new emergency management equipment and communications systems and/or to fulfill federal grant cash match requirements.

Political Subdivision	Type	Estimated Population	Estimated Annual Cost
Amanda	Municipality	719	\$179
Amanda	Township	1,722	\$430
Baltimore	Municipality	2,397	\$599
Berne	Township	4,521	\$1,130
Bloom	Township	5,765	\$1,441
Bremen	Municipality	1,254	\$313
Buckeye Lake	Municipality	3,055	\$763
Canal Winchester	Municipality	5,819	\$1,454
Carroll	Municipality	470	\$117
Clearcreek	Township	2,830	\$707
Greenfield	Township	4,465	\$1,116
Hocking	Township	4,812	\$1,203
Lancaster	Municipality	36,507	\$9,126
Liberty	Township	4,387	\$1,096
Lithopolis	Municipality	910	\$227
Madison	Township	1,385	\$346
Millersport	Municipality	961	\$240
Pickerington	Municipality	16,575	\$4,143
Pleasant	Township	5,039	\$1,259
Pleasantville	Municipality	853	\$213
Richland	Township	1,540	\$385
Rush Creek	Township	2,284	\$571
Rushville	Municipality	272	\$68
Stoutsville	Municipality	578	\$144
Sugar Grove	Municipality	439	\$109
Thurston	Municipality	609	\$152
Violet	Township	16,893	\$4,223
Walnut	Township	4,545	\$1,136

West Rushville	Municipality	138	\$34
Estimated Totals		131,744	\$32,936

Notes: Municipality population figures provided by U.S. Census Bureau for 2006. Township population figures provided as estimates for 2007 by State of Ohio Department of Development. Cost figures may total due to rounding.

State fiscal effects

The bill has no readily apparent direct fiscal effect on state revenues and expenditures.

LSC fiscal staff: Jeffrey R. Kasler, Budget Analyst

SB0084SR/rh