

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

127th General Assembly of Ohio

Ohio Legislative Service Commission
77 South High Street, 9th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6136 ✧ Phone: (614) 466-3615
✧ Internet Web Site: <http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/>

BILL: **S.B. 391** DATE: **December 17, 2008**
STATUS: **As Introduced** SPONSOR: **Sen. Grendell**
LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: **No — Permissive**
CONTENTS: **To permit a blended board of county commissioners form of county government in a county with a population of 1.2 million or more**

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	FY 2009 - FUTURE YEARS
Cuyahoga County	
Revenues	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential increase in county commissioner salaries if more than three members on county commission
	Potential increase in ballot advertising costs

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 permits a county with a population of 1.2 million or more according to the 2000 Decennial Census (Cuyahoga County) to adopt a blended board of county commissioners if such a plan is approved by voters. If this results in more members serving on the board, it would raise compensation costs. The bill specifies that any such plan put before the voters stipulate how this compensation is to be calculated in lieu of the current arrangement in state law.
- The bill requires that the proposed plan be made available to the public 45 days before the election in which such a ballot question is put. The county would incur costs to make this notification, whether it be by advertising in a newspaper of general circulation or by mail.



Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Blended board of county commissioners

The bill creates a third form of alternative government, known as the blended board of county commissioners plan, that counties with a population of 1.2 million or more according to the 2000 Decennial Census may adopt upon voter approval. This limits the bill's application to Cuyahoga County. In the blended board plan proposed under the bill, some members of the board of county commissioners would be elected for at-large positions and some would be elected by districts. One at-large member would serve as the chairperson of the board of county commissioners with responsibilities as the presiding officer of that body. Presumably, the chairperson would retain the same authority as that of the president under current law.

The plan submitted for voter approval must specify how the members will be elected both at-large and by district. If the plan submitted to the voters does not divide the county into districts, they must be subsequently divided such that a board of county commissioners consists of odd numbers of at least three but no more than twenty-one members. Also, it states that if a board consists of more than seven members, no more than half can be elected at large. The division of districts (redistricting) must also conform to the standards used to create districts for members of the General Assembly.

Fiscal effect

The bill is permissive and would apply to Cuyahoga County alone, the only county meeting the population threshold specified in the bill. If the county were to adopt a blended board of county commissioners, it is possible that the newly-constituted board would have more than the three members currently serving. Based upon the statutory compensation schedule and related cost-of-living adjustments for county commissioners in a county with a population that exceeds one million, the current salary for a commissioner seated after the 2008 general election is \$92,474. The bill changes this to require that any blended plan put before the voters "establish the percentage of the annual compensation provided" under current statute. This would appear to reduce the annual salaries paid to the members of the blended commission. However, overall board compensation costs would likely increase over current levels if more than three members serve on the board. There may be some other costs involved for reorganizing the functions of the commission under the blended plan, but these would hinge on decisions made once this form of county government is adopted.

The bill also requires that the board of county commissioners to "cause a copy of the alternative form to be distributed" to each elector "so far as may be reasonably possible." If this were to require the commission to mail the ballot language to voters, the county would incur sizeable costs for postage. If this merely required a public notice in a newspaper of general circulation, the cost would be less. Since it applies only to one county, these expenses would be borne exclusively by the county.