



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 167 of the 128th G.A.

Date: June 2, 2009

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Murray

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No — Minimal cost

Contents: Prohibit employer or landlord from discriminating against a victim of domestic violence

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FY 2010 – FUTURE YEARS

Counties and Municipalities (courts of common pleas, municipal courts, and county courts)

Revenues	Potential, likely no more than minimal, annual gain in court costs and fees collected from possible increase in civil action filings
Expenditures	Potential, relatively small, annual increase in civil action filings, producing a minimal at most additional operating cost for any affected jurisdiction

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 provides a civil remedy that may generate, at most, a relatively small increase in the number of civil actions filed in any given court of common pleas, municipal court, or county court by individuals alleging injury as a result of employer or landlord violations. The potential annual cost for such courts to adjudicate these matters, and the related court cost and filing fee revenues that may be collected, are likely to be no more than minimal.¹

¹ Minimal in the context of this fiscal analysis means an expenditure increase or revenue gain estimated at no more than \$5,000 per year for any affected county or municipality.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Overview

For the purposes of this fiscal analysis, the bill most notably:

- Prohibits an employer or landlord from discriminating against a victim of domestic violence.
- Permits an individual who believes the individual has suffered an injury as a result of an employer's or landlord's violation of a duty or provision created under the bill to bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction.²

Local fiscal effects

To the degree that the bill affects local governments, it will most likely be courts of record, in particular the operating expenses, and related revenue collections, of the courts of common pleas, municipal courts, and county courts.

Common pleas, municipal, and county courts

In researching the bill's potential fiscal effects on local governments, LSC fiscal staff discussed its provisions with members and staff of the Judicial Conference of Ohio and the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, a nonprofit coalition of domestic violence programs and agencies. Based on those conversations, it appears unlikely that, subsequent to the bill's enactment, there will be a noticeable increase in any given court's civil caseload brought about by new actions filed alleging injury as a result of employer or landlord violations. Although the bill's enactment could clearly precipitate the filing of such actions, and arguably will to some degree, the number appears likely to be relatively small, especially in the context of the court's overall caseload. The potential cost to adjudicate these new actions, and the related revenues in the form of court costs and filing fees that may be charged and collected, will be minimal at most annually.

State fiscal effects

The bill will have no direct fiscal impact on the state.

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² A court of competent jurisdiction includes courts of common pleas, municipal courts, and county courts. A municipal or county court may hear civil cases in which the monetary value of the alleged injury or damages does not exceed \$15,000. A court of common pleas has jurisdiction in all civil cases in which the monetary value of the alleged injury or damages is more than \$15,000.