Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Jamie L. Doskocil

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 24 of the 129th G.A. **Date**: December 14, 2011

Status: As Passed by the House **Sponsor**: Rep. Combs

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Notice of certain sex offenders residing in or near a long-term care facility

State Fiscal Highlights

- **Department of Health.** The costs associated with the bill's requirement that the Department of Health maintain a list of all long-term care facilities containing certain information, and that the information be provided to a county sheriff upon request, will not be significant and are likely to be absorbed within the normal daily cost of doing business.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- **County-operated homes.** Thirty-three counties that operate county or district homes will incur negligible annual costs to comply with the bill's requirement that copies of certain Sex Offender Registration and Notification (SORN) Law notices provided by the county sheriff be distributed to residents of the home and their sponsors.
- **County sheriffs.** County sheriffs will incur negligible annual costs to comply with the bill's requirement that certain additional SORN Law notifications be provided to long-term care facilities.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Department of Health

The bill's lone state fiscal effect is associated with the requirement that the Department of Health compile, update, and maintain a list of all long-term care facilities containing certain information, and that the information be provided to a county sheriff upon request. This requirement is not expected to generate significant one-time or ongoing expenses for the Department of Health and would likely be absorbed within the normal daily cost of doing business. Much of this information exists in a variety of forms and would simply need to be compiled into a single document.

Long-term care facilities

The bill requires managers of long-term care facilities to provide a copy of the notice received from the county sheriff to all residents of the facility and to the sponsor of each of those residents. Most long-term care facilities are privately owned and operated, however, there are a number of county-operated facilities in the state. According to the Ohio County Home Association, 33 counties operate county or district homes that would fall under the bill's definition of long-term care facility. The annual cost to distribute these notices to residents and sponsors is likely to be negligible.

There are approximately 2,500 total long-term care facilities in the state.[1] These facilities include adult foster homes, adult care facilities or group homes, nursing homes, residential care and assisted living, and intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation. It is possible that, in addition to county or district homes, certain counties may also operate other types of long-term care facilities that may fall under the bill's definition.[2]

County sheriffs

Under the current Sex Offender Registration and Notification (SORN) Law, there is already a process in place for determining the specific facilities and residences that the county sheriff must notify in writing of either the presence of certain registered offenders or of the intention of those offenders to locate in a particular geographical area. The bill adds "long-term care facility" to the list of entities and persons that are to be provided a written notice, which means that a county sheriff may send out more written notices than might otherwise have been the case under current law. Based on

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[1] Brothers-McPhail, Denise, and Shahla Mehdizadeh, *Disability in Ohio: Long-Term Care Providers & Programs,* Oxford: Scripps Gerontology Center, January 2009.

[2] These facilities include homes for the aging, county or district homes, adult foster homes, and facilities approved by the Veterans Administration for the placement and care of veterans.

the current number of long-term care facilities, their location relative to the number of offenders subject to community notification, and the cost per written notice, county sheriffs are likely to incur no more than negligible annual costs to comply with the bill's additional notification requirement.

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