Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Michele Perch

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 212 of the 129th G.A. **Date**: June 2, 2011

Status: As Introduced **Sponsor**: Rep. Grossman

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Extends the exemption of certain adoptive placement requirements to legal custodians

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal impact on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill may result in an increase in the number of adoption petitions filed, thereby increasing probate court costs to hold hearings and approve adoptions. These costs may be offset by a gain in adoption filing fee revenue.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

In order for prospective parents to adopt, there are several requirements that must be met including, the child's biological parents must appear before the court hearing the case, an independent home study must be performed, and the court must have approved the proposed placement. Currently, these restrictions do not apply to stepparents, grandparents, or guardians who want to adopt a child for whom they are providing care. The bill exempts a legal custodian from these requirements regarding the adoption of a child under their care.

Extending the exemptions to legal custodians may increase the number of adoption petitions filed. For each petition that is filed, the local probate court would incur costs to conduct a hearing and to approve the adoption. Those costs may be offset by a gain in adoption filing fee revenue. Courts collect a $50 adoption filing fee that is deposited into the county general fund. Each court may also require an advance deposit that ranges from $125 to $200 for other court costs, such as notifying parties involved. That portion of the court fee is deposited into the court's special projects fund.

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