



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Sub. H.B. 319 of the 129th G.A.](#) **Date:** September 21, 2011
Status: As Reported by Senate Government Oversight & Reform **Sponsor:** Rep. Huffman

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Redraws Ohio's congressional districts and makes an appropriation

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill redraws U.S. congressional district lines in Ohio based on the 2010 decennial census. Because of the slow rate of population growth in Ohio compared to other states in the nation, the number of congressional districts in Ohio must be reduced from 18 to 16.
- The costs incurred for redrawing the congressional districts are paid primarily through GRF appropriation item 035407, Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, within the budget of the Legislative Service Commission. Thus far in FY 2012, expenditures from this line item have amounted to just under \$310,000.
- The Secretary of State's Office has also incurred some small expense for making district mapping software available to the public on the Office's web site. The cost of making this software available for public participation in the redistricting process has been approximately \$16,000, paid from GRF appropriation item 050321, Operating Expenses.
- The bill creates GRF line item 911404, Mandate Assistance under the Controlling Board budget with a FY 2012 appropriation of \$2,750,000. The bill requires this appropriation to be used to pay for the congressional redistricting process.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- County boards of elections will incur some new costs as a result of this redistricting process. The costs incurred for remapping and reprecincting counties and reprogramming database systems and voting machines will be paid from the new line item created under the bill.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill establishes U.S. congressional district boundaries for the state based on the 2010 decennial census of Ohio. Based on this census data, the state of Ohio saw a reduction of two congressional seats, lowering the number of districts in Ohio from 18 to 16. The legislative process of redrawing these districts (and also for reapportioning General Assembly districts) is supported by GRF appropriation item 035407, Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, within the budget of the Legislative Service Commission. Total expenses for these purposes thus far in FY 2012 have amounted to \$309,699 primarily for GIS mapping software applications, consulting services, and other related expenses. In addition to these expenses, the Secretary of State's Office incurred costs of approximately \$16,000 to provide mapping software on its web site, allowing users to draw their own congressional district maps for consideration by the General Assembly. Funding for this mapping software was provided under GRF appropriation item 050321, Operating Expenses.

The 88 county boards of elections will incur new costs, some of which will be covered by the new appropriation in the bill. To assist with implementing the redistricting plan, the bill creates GRF line item 911404, Mandate Assistance, with an FY 2012 appropriation of \$2.75 million, in the Controlling Board's budget. Uncodified language in the bill requires that this appropriation be used to cover the costs of the redistricting process, specifically remapping and reprecincting counties, as well as reprogramming database systems and voting machines.