



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Sub. H.B. 433 of the 129th G.A.

Date: May 23, 2012

Status: As Reported by Senate State & Local Government & Veterans Affairs

Sponsor: Rep. Damschroder

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Abolishes the Sandusky County and Trumbull County county courts and creates the Sandusky County and Trumbull County municipal courts

State Fiscal Highlights

STATE FUND

FY 2014 – FUTURE YEARS

General Revenue Fund (GRF)

Revenues - 0 -

Expenditures Annual reduction of \$18,446 related to judicial salaries

Note: The state fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. For example, FY 2014 is July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014.

- Starting with FY 2014, the bill will decrease GRF expenditures related to judicial salaries by \$18,446 annually through the abolition of two part-time judgeships and creation of one full-time municipal court judgeship in each of Sandusky and Trumbull counties.

Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FY 2013 – FUTURE YEARS

Sandusky County

Revenues - 0 -

Expenditures Annual reduction, starting with FY 2014, of \$23,316 related to judicial salaries

Trumbull County

Revenues - 0 -

Expenditures (1) Annual reduction in personnel costs of approximately \$180,000 to \$250,000;
(2) Annual savings in building operating expenses

Note: For most local governments, the fiscal year is the calendar year. The school district fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

- Sandusky County.** Starting with FY 2014, the abolition of two part-time judgeships and creation of one full-time municipal court judgeship will result in an annual savings to Sandusky County of \$23,316 related to judicial salaries. The one-time transitional costs (signage, stationary, etc.) associated with the abolition of its county court and creation of a municipal court are expected to be negligible.

- **Trumbull County.** Starting with FY 2013, the abolition of two part-time judgeships and creation of one full-time municipal court judgeship will result in an annual savings to Trumbull County of \$23,316 related to judicial salaries, and up to \$227,081 in other personnel costs. It is anticipated that these savings will be realized by reducing the number of county court locations from two to one and thereby reducing the need for duplicate staffing. Consolidation of the court is also anticipated to generate a reduction in the amount expended annually on building operating expenses.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill abolishes the Sandusky County and Trumbull County county courts and establishes the Sandusky County and Trumbull County municipal courts. The two part-time judgeships serving each jurisdiction will be abolished and replaced by a full-time municipal court judgeship.

State fiscal effects

The state is statutorily responsible for paying a portion of the salary of county court and municipal court judges. In the case of Sandusky and Trumbull counties, the elimination of the two part-time county court judgeships and their replacement with one full-time municipal court judgeship will result in a reduction of annual expenditures related to the state portion of judicial salaries. The state expenditure reduction will be \$9,223 per county per year; the total annual reduction for the two counties combined will be \$18,446. Funding for the state share of judicial salaries is provided by GRF line item 005321, Operating Expenses – Judiciary/Supreme Court. The components of the state's judicial salary costs and resulting state savings per county are detailed in Table 1 below.

Cost component	Two Part-time judgeships	One Full-time municipal court judgeship	Cost savings
Salary (by statute)	\$60,300	\$52,350	\$7,950
PERS (14.0%)	\$8,442	\$7,329	\$1,113
Medicare (1.5%)	\$905	\$785	\$120
Worker's Compensation (0.5%)	\$302	\$262	\$40
Annual Totals	\$69,949	\$60,726	\$9,223

Sandusky and Trumbull County fiscal effects

Judicial salaries

The abolition of the two part-time county court judgeships and creation of one-full time municipal court judgeship in each of Sandusky County and Trumbull County will reduce each county's expenditures related to judicial salaries and benefits by \$23,316 annually. Table 2 below provides a detailed analysis of that expenditure decrease for each county.

Cost component	Two Part-time judgeships	One Full-time municipal court judgeship	Cost savings
Salary (by statute)	\$71,000	\$61,750	\$9,250
PERS (14.0%)	\$9,940	\$8,645	\$1,295
Medicare (1.5%)	\$1,065	\$926	\$139
Worker's Compensation (0.5%)	\$355	\$309	\$46
Health Insurance	\$25,172	12,586	\$12,586
Annual Totals	\$107,532	\$84,216	\$23,316

Other Sandusky County expenditures

The bill will result in negligible one-time transitional costs (signage, stationary, etc.) for Sandusky County. Local officials contacted by LSC indicated these changes to the structure of the court system in Sandusky County will not trigger any additional costs related to staffing, procedures, or capital improvements, and that the transition will be relatively seamless.

Other Trumbull County expenditures

Personnel costs

A savings for Trumbull County is anticipated by reducing the need for certain other court-related personnel (clerks, probation, bailiffs, and security). By combining staffs of the two county court locations, officials expect there will be opportunities to combine duties and responsibilities and allow a reduction in total personnel needed to efficiently operate the new municipal court. The resulting annual personnel cost savings is likely to be in the range of \$159,000 to \$227,000, as detailed in Table 3 below.

Cost component	Low estimate	High estimate
Clerk's office	\$79,711	\$85,446
Probation department	\$62,989	\$111,974
Bailiffs and security	\$15,879	\$29,661
Totals	\$158,579	\$227,081

Facility costs

Trumbull County currently maintains separate facilities for the two existing county court locations. The county owns the facility housing the Central District Court in Cortland, and leases the facility housing the Eastern District Court in Brookfield at a cost of \$59,700 annually. As a result of the abolition of the county court and the creation of the municipal court, the county may be able to consolidate locations and realize some savings associated with facility costs. Additional savings may also be realized by the elimination or reduction of duplicate costs associated with maintaining two facilities, items such as heating and cooling, electricity, water and sewage, insurance, waste disposal, general maintenance, security monitoring, and phones.

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