



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Am. H.B. 532 of the 129th G.A.

Date: June 8, 2012

Status: As Reported by House Veterans Affairs

Sponsor: Reps. Kozlowski and Gonzales

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Ohio Military Medal of Distinction

State Fiscal Highlights

- One-time transfer of \$2,500 cash from the General Revenue Fund (GRF) to the Military Medal of Distinction Fund (Fund 5LY0) and appropriates it in FY 2013 for the purpose of producing medals.
- Based on the medal program's activity to date, the provision of duplicate medals at "no cost" could cost the Adjutant General up to between \$5,000 and \$10,000 annually.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The Ohio Military Medal of Distinction is currently awarded once a year by the Governor and General Assembly to certain deceased members of the military. To date, these medals have been produced by the Adjutant General using money appropriated from the GRF at a per medal cost, including engraving, of approximately \$17. Since the medal's establishment in 2009, approximately 260 have been awarded to the families of qualifying servicemembers.

The bill: (1) creates the Military Medal of Distinction Fund (Fund 5LY0) for the purpose of producing the medals, and (2) transfers and appropriates \$2,500 cash from the GRF to essentially seed Fund 5LY0. As codified, the fund will consist of fees collected from applicants for duplicate medals, any appropriations made by the General Assembly for the purposes of the Ohio Military Medal of Distinction program, and investment earnings of the fund.

Duplicate medals. The bill establishes a process by which certain family members of medal recipients may request a duplicate medal either at no cost or for a fee. The bill requires a duplicate medal be issued: (1) at "no cost" if the requestor is a

parent or spouse is or was not the primary next of kin and (2) for "a fee" for certain other qualifying family members. The Adjutant General is required to set that fee in an amount no greater than the cost of producing the duplicate medal.

Based on the medal program's activity to date, the provision of duplicate medals at "no cost" could cost the Adjutant General up to between \$5,000 and \$10,000 annually. Presumably, if sufficient cash is not available for this purpose in Fund 5LY0, this cost would be paid for with money appropriated from the GRF. To the extent that requests for duplicate medals are received and distributed to other qualifying family members, any costs incurred would be offset by the fee collected and deposited in Fund 5LY0.

Administrative costs. Any additional processing and verification tasks that result from the bill's provisions are expected to be minimal and absorbed within the Adjutant General's existing staffing and funding levels.

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