Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Sub. S.B. 19 of the 129th G.A. (LSC 129 0402-2)

Date: March 26, 2012

Status: In House Criminal Justice

Sponsor: Sen. Hughes

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Permits a judge to elect to order the Registrar of Motor Vehicles not to suspend the probationary driver's license of certain juvenile repeat traffic violators

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill requires the Director of Public Safety to establish standards for advanced juvenile driver improvement programs and to approve programs that meet these standards. According to the Department of Public Safety, it is currently rewriting its driver improvement programs, so this provision of the bill would have minimal additional fiscal impact on its budget.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill allows a judge to elect not to suspend the probationary driver's license of certain juvenile repeat traffic offenders conditional on the offender completing an advanced juvenile driver improvement course. Courts may choose to waive fines and court costs for offenders taking the course or pay the cost of the course for indigent offenders. These expenditures are not required by the bill, however, and with the small number of cases, are not likely to exceed minimal.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

State fiscal effects

The bill requires the Director of Public Safety to establish standards for advanced juvenile driver improvement programs and to approve programs that meet these standards. Establishing standards and approving programs may increase the administrative burden of the Department of Public Safety. However, according to the Department, it is currently in the process of rewriting its driver improvement program standards as a result of changes in federal standards. It will likely be able to meet the requirements of the bill as a part of the current rewrite, so this provision of the bill will not have a significant additional fiscal impact on the Department's budget.

The bill allows a judge to elect not to suspend the probationary driver's license of certain juvenile repeat traffic offenders. The number of cases that this provision applies to is likely to be very small. According to the Department of Public Safety, any potential revenue loss related to driver's license reinstatement fees that would not be collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles is likely no more than negligible. Any administrative savings or reduction in expenditures associated with processing fewer notifications pertaining to juvenile license suspensions would also be no more than negligible.

Local fiscal effects

The primary result of the bill is to give juvenile judges in the counties discretion in deciding whether to ask the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to suspend the probationary driver's license of certain juvenile repeat traffic violators. The bill does not create any new cases for the juvenile courts and does not make any changes to the law regarding fines for juvenile traffic offenders.

Courts may choose to waive fines and court costs for offenders who request a waiver of their license suspensions and must therefore pay the costs of attending an advanced juvenile driver training course. According to the Knox County Court of Common Pleas, for example, it will likely waive all fines and court costs in this situation. Some courts may also choose to pay the costs of the course for indigent offenders, although this is not required by the bill. As stated previously, however, the number of cases that this provision would apply to is likely to be very small, so the potential cost to any given county is also likely be very small.

Synopsis of fiscal changes

The substitute bill shifts the responsibility for establishing new standards for juvenile driver improvement programs from the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, as provided under the Senate passed version of the bill, to the Director of Public Safety. This change has no net fiscal impact on the Department.