Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Am. S.B. 222 of the 129th G.A. **Date**: December 20, 2011

Status: As Passed by the Senate **Sponsor**: Sen. Burke

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Requires certain flags to be displayed at rest areas along the state's interstates and the Ohio Turnpike

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill requires the Ohio Turnpike Commission to purchase POW/MIA flags for its 16 service plazas. The total annual cost to purchase these flags would be $1,080. The POW/MIA flag and the others required to fly at interstate rest stops and Ohio Turnpike service plazas – the flag of the United States and the flag of Ohio – already fly at these locations.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires the flag of the United States, the flag of Ohio, and the flag commonly known as the POW/MIA flag to be displayed at each rest area along the interstate system and the Ohio Turnpike. Further, the bill requires that the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Ohio Turnpike Commission (OTC), to the maximum extent possible, conform to Buy Ohio and Buy American preferences when purchasing the flags.

According to ODOT, all three of these flags currently fly at its rest areas. POW/MIA flags were added to ODOT rest areas beginning in September 2011. Though this means that there is no new cost to ODOT, the bill would make current practice in regard to the flags mandatory at rest stops along the interstate system rather than voluntary.

OTC reports that the United States and Ohio flags are displayed at each of its service plazas. To comply with the bill, OTC would have to purchase POW/MIA flags at a cost of $22.50 per flag. OTC replaces the flags at its 16 service plazas every four months, meaning that 48 POW/MIA flags would need to be purchased each year. This

calculates to a total annual cost of $1,080 to purchase the additional flags. Both ODOT and OTC already apply Buy Ohio and Buy American preferences when purchasing flags.

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