



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Mary Turocy

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Am. Sub. S.B. 243 of the 129th G.A.](#)

Date: March 28, 2012

Status: As Passed by the House

Sponsor: Sens. Hughes and Wagoner, Jr.

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Modifications to the Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact

State Fiscal Highlights

- The inclusion of state institutions of higher education in the Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC) may increase costs for the institutions that provide assistance and may benefit the institutions that receive assistance.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill prohibits responding agencies from requesting reimbursement for the first eight hours of IMAC assistance or aid, which may increase costs for the participating local governments and health districts that provide assistance and reduce costs for those receiving assistance.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact

Under current law, counties, townships, and municipalities may participate in the Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC). The IMAC provides for mutual assistance among the participating entities in the event that a disaster results in a formal declaration of emergency by a participating entity. The bill expands the purposes of the IMAC to provide assistance not only in the event of a disaster, but also for incidents, exercises, training activities, planned events (such as concerts and sporting events), and emergencies, any of which require additional resources. The bill also expands participation in IMAC to higher education institutions, health districts, and other political subdivisions, including school districts, although these entities may choose to opt out. The additional entities may experience increased costs to provide assistance to other participants and may also benefit from the assistance of other participants.

Also under current law, the expenses incurred by an entity that provides assistance under the IMAC are generally reimbursable, with some exceptions. The bill adds to these exceptions by prohibiting reimbursement for the first eight hours of assistance provided. This provision may increase costs for the participating higher education institutions and local governments that provide assistance and reduce costs for those receiving assistance.

Other mutual aid agreements

In addition to the IMAC, current law permits Ohio counties, townships, and municipalities, in collaboration with other public and private agencies within Ohio, to develop mutual aid agreements in the case of a hazard that is too great to be dealt with unassisted. The bill expands the entities that may enter into these agreements to include all those that may participate in IMAC, expands the events covered by the agreements to include incidents, disasters, exercises, training activities, planned events, and emergencies, any of which require additional resources, and permits these entities to enter into these agreements with out-of-state agencies as well as agencies within Ohio. This provision may increase the resources available to participating entities when one of these events occurs.

Volunteer system for emergencies

Under current law, the Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism is responsible to cooperate with state agencies and political subdivisions in establishing a system of volunteers to respond to emergencies declared by the state or a political subdivision. The bill shifts this responsibility to the Director of Health, in conjunction with the Executive Director of the Emergency Management Agency (EMA). Under current law, the Director of Health is already responsible to establish a system of volunteers to respond to emergencies involving the public's health. According to EMA,

the required volunteer system is already established, so the provisions in the bill should not increase its or the Department of Health's administrative expenses.

National emergency medical services information system

The bill permits the Board of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to transmit certain data to the national emergency medical services information system. The EMS already keeps these data, so this provision will have no more than a minimal fiscal impact on EMS, should it choose to transmit the data in this manner.

Ambulance staffing

The bill expands the number of people eligible to drive an ambulance during an emergency run to include various law enforcement officers and those who have completed an emergency vehicle operations course. This provision may make it easier to find an eligible driver for an emergency run.