



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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**Bill:** [H.B. 104 of the 130th G.A.](#)

**Date:** May 1, 2013

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Reps. Ruhl and Stautberg

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** Yes

**Contents:** To make changes to the laws governing the civil commitment of and treatment provided to mentally ill persons

### State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill changes the term "mentally ill person subject *to hospitalization* by court order" in Chapter 5122. of the Revised Code to "mentally ill person subject to court order." This change could clarify that persons could be served in a community setting rather than only in a hospital. If more persons are treated in a community setting, the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) could realize some savings in hospital costs, but the state could experience an increase in community Medicaid costs.
- The bill modifies the criteria that a mentally ill person must meet to be subject to court order. This modification in the criteria will result in an increase in the number of civil commitment cases heard in probate courts and thus, the number of persons who are civilly committed. This will increase state costs for hospitalization and community Medicaid.

### Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill changes the term "mentally ill person subject *to hospitalization* by court order" in Chapter 5122. of the Revised Code to "mentally ill person subject to court order." This change could clarify that persons could be served in a community setting rather than only in a hospital. If more persons are treated in a community setting, local behavioral health boards could experience an increase in costs.
- The bill modifies the criteria that a mentally ill person must meet to be subject to court order. This modification in the criteria will result in an increase in the number of civil commitment cases heard in probate courts and thus, the number of persons who are civilly committed. This will increase probate court costs and local board treatment costs.

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## Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill makes several changes to the laws governing court-ordered commitment of and treatment provided to mentally ill persons.

The bill changes the term "mentally ill person subject to hospitalization by court order" in Chapter 5122. of the Revised Code to "mentally ill person subject to court order." This change could clarify that persons could be served in a community setting rather than only in a hospital. The Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) is responsible for the costs of state psychiatric hospitals. Local behavioral health boards are responsible for the cost of treatment in the community unless the person is on Medicaid, in which case the state and federal government share the cost. It is generally assumed that treatment in the community could cost less than treatment in a hospital. If more persons are treated in a community setting, local boards could experience an increase in costs. On the other hand, ODMH could realize some savings in hospital costs, but the state could experience an increase in community Medicaid costs.

The bill also modifies the criteria that a mentally ill person must meet to be subject to court order to include persons who would benefit from the treatment due to all of the following: (1) the substantial likelihood that, if the person is not treated, the person's current condition will further deteriorate to the point that the person meets current criteria for civil commitment, (2) the person has demonstrated difficulty in adhering to prescribed treatment, and (3) the likelihood that the person will not voluntarily participate in treatment despite a risk of serious impairment or injury to self or others. This modification to the criteria will result in an increase in the number of civil commitment cases heard in probate courts and thus, the number of persons who are civilly committed. This will increase probate court, state, and local board costs. According to the Ohio Judicial Conference, probate court costs for civil commitment cases are estimated to be \$100 for the service of notice, \$120 for transportation, \$200 to \$300 for indigent counsel, and \$300 to \$400 if an independent psychiatric evaluation is needed. There could be additional costs such as witnesses, referees, court reporters, and other hearing costs. ODMH currently provides some reimbursement for civil commitment cases to probate courts from GRF line item 334506, Court Costs. H.B. 153 of the 129th General Assembly appropriated \$584,210 to this line item in fiscal year 2013. The modification to the criteria could result in some savings to the state and local boards if mentally ill persons receive treatment before the illness progresses to an acute level.