



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Garrett Crane

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Am. H.B. 207 of the 130th G.A.](#) **Date:** May 28, 2014
Status: As Reported by House Transportation,
Public Safety, and Homeland Security **Sponsor:** Rep. Damschroder

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Drone aircraft use by law enforcement agencies

State and Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state or any of its political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill prohibits, except under specified circumstances, a state or local law enforcement agency from using drone aircraft to obtain evidence or any other information. As no Ohio law enforcement agency is currently using drones, compliance with this prohibition will have no direct fiscal effect on the state or local governments.¹

The bill also permits a person to commence a civil action for damages against any person, the state, or a political subdivision alleged to have violated the prohibition. As state and local law enforcement agencies are expected to comply with the prohibition, violations will be rare. This provision does, however, increase their exposure to civil actions and subjects them to the possibility of paying monetary damages.

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¹ Currently, the Medina County Sheriff's Office is the Ohio law enforcement agency closest to incorporating drones into day-to-day operations. It is currently testing and training personnel on the use of drones. Their primary purpose will be to aid in search-and-rescue operations.