



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Sub. [H.B. 323 of the 130th G.A.](#) **Date:** June 2, 2014
Status: As Reported by House State and Local Government **Sponsor:** Reps. Duffey and C. Hagan

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Requires the Auditor of State to establish the data.Ohio.gov website

State Fiscal Highlights

- The Auditor of State could incur costs for computer equipment, software, and labor necessary to develop and implement the data.Ohio.gov website to host public records and data sets as required by the bill. If the Auditor chooses to create and manage the website using a turnkey application provided by a private vendor, then annual software licensing fees might apply.
- The costs incurred for operating the website would most likely be paid from GRF appropriation item 070321, Operating Expenses.
- The bill prohibits the Auditor from charging any fees in relation to the data.Ohio.gov website.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires the Auditor of State to establish and operate the data.Ohio.gov website to function as a portal and catalog where public records and data sets of public records can be located and accessed by the public. Under the bill, the website may contain original data, data sets that contain original content or summarized content of data sets obtained from public offices. The bill prohibits posting data sets of public records obtained from public offices directly and instead requires this type of information to be accessible via links to the websites of the public offices. The bill also requires the Auditor to adopt rules specifying the policies and procedures for administering and operating the website and make every effort to ensure data posted there is in an open format and is machine readable. Additionally, the bill requires the Auditor to consult with the state librarian regarding the collection, aggregation, presentation and accessibility of data in relation to the website and to consider affiliating data.Ohio.gov with the federal government's data website located online at data.gov. Finally, the bill specifies that the Auditor may not charge a fee in relation to data.Ohio.gov.

The Auditor of State would incur costs to develop and implement the website required under the bill. Data websites of other states, including Colorado, Hawaii, and Oregon, which have websites that appear to serve a similar purpose to that of the proposed data.Ohio.gov, were implemented using a turnkey application offered by a private vendor. According to the vendor, annual licensing for the software used in those states is a few hundred thousand dollars each year depending on which features of the application are used. Ultimately, costs incurred by the Auditor would depend on any computer equipment, software, and labor necessary to establish the website. The costs associated with the data.Ohio.gov website would likely be paid from the GRF under appropriation item 070321, Operating Expenses.