



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Am. H.B. 324 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: Creates the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program and makes an appropriation

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill creates the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program within the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and provides GRF funding of \$12.5 million in both FY 2015 and FY 2016.
- The funding is for grants to local governments and public libraries for use in posting certain data to the Internet. Regional planning commissions, metropolitan planning organizations and regional councils of governments may also apply for grants on behalf of local governments.
- Up to \$250,000 of the FY 2015 appropriation is earmarked to pay administrative costs that DAS incurs for overseeing the grant program.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Local governments and public libraries that choose to participate in the program could incur costs to comply with data formatting and posting standards established by the Director of Administrative Services. These costs could be at least partially offset by a \$10,000 grant awarded under the program.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill creates the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program in the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). The program would provide grants of \$10,000 to local governments and public libraries to use for posting certain data on the Internet. The bill also allows regional planning commissions, metropolitan planning organizations and regional councils of governments to apply for grants on behalf of a local government or group of local governments. Under the bill, these organizations would be awarded grants of \$10,000 for each eligible local government on behalf of whom they applied. The bill appropriates \$12.5 million in both FY 2015 and FY 2016 from the GRF to fund the grants under appropriation item 100501, Local Government Information Exchange Grants. For FY 2015, the bill earmarks up to \$250,000 for use by the Director of Administrative Services to administer the program.

Under the bill, the Director of DAS is required to establish eligibility criteria for entities that apply for funding under the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program. These criteria include: (1) specifying what data must be posted, (2) requiring that the data be posted in an open format and be searchable, viewable, and available for downloading by the public, (3) technological standards and formatting specifications for the data, and (4) specifications for accounting standards for data provided by local governments. Local governments that choose to participate in the program could incur costs to meet these criteria. However, these costs would be at least partially offset by the grant award.