



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Garrett Crane

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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**Bill:** H.B. 464 of the 130th G.A.

**Date:** March 25, 2014

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Reps. Letson and Huffman

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Contents:** Civil damages immunity of National Ski Patrol System members

### State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

### Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill's civil damages immunity may create a savings effect for common pleas, municipal, and county courts, as it could reduce the time and effort that might otherwise have been spent on adjudicating certain civil actions.

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### Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill specifies the circumstances in which an on-duty, registered member of the National Ski Patrol System is not liable for civil damages for acts (including administering emergency care or treatment) performed at the scene of an emergency. Our research suggests that the filing of civil damages actions against Patrol System members, in Ohio at least, is extremely rare. As a result of the civil immunity, it is possible that such a case may not get filed, or if filed disposed of more quickly. Arguably, either outcome creates a savings effect, as it could reduce the time and effort that a court might otherwise have expended on adjudicating certain civil cases. Civil actions seeking damages under the previously described circumstances would generally fall under the subject matter jurisdiction of common pleas, municipal, and county courts.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The general division of a court of common pleas has original jurisdiction in all civil cases in which the amount in controversy is more than \$15,000. Municipal and county courts have civil jurisdiction that is limited to cases in which the amount of money in dispute does not exceed \$15,000.