Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Sub. H.J.R. 12 of the 130th G.A. **Date**: December 5, 2014

Status: As Adopted by the House **Sponsor**: Reps. Huffman and Sykes

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Revises the redistricting process for General Assembly districts

State and Local Fiscal Highlights

- The resolution proposes changes to the way the state's General Assembly districts are drawn. The costs for developing and approving these redistricting plans are to be covered by appropriations made by the General Assembly. Currently, redistricting expenses are paid from GRF appropriation item 035407, Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, under the budget of the Legislative Service Commission.
- Appropriations made to the Controlling Board under GRF appropriation item 911441, Ballot Advertising Costs, are used to reimburse the Secretary of State for expenses incurred in advertising the ballot issue statewide. The amounts of the reimbursements approved by the Controlling Board are transferred to the Statewide Ballot Advertising Fund (Fund 5FH0) under the Secretary of State's budget.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Redistricting Commission

The resolution proposes a statewide ballot issue changing the way the state's General Assembly districts are drawn under an entity referred to as the Ohio Redistricting Commission. The Commission would consist of the Governor, Auditor of State, Secretary of State, one person appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one person appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, one person appointed by the President of the Senate, and one person appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate. The resolution also outlines when the Ohio Redistricting Commission is to convene and the procedures to be used in developing redistricting plans. Details concerning the manner in which the Ohio Redistricting Commission is to conduct business can be found in the LSC bill analysis.

Under the Ohio Redistricting Commission proposed in the resolution, the General Assembly is required to appropriate sufficient funding for the Commission to carry out its functions. While this funding requirement exists under the current procedure used to redistrict General Assembly and Congressional districts, it is uncertain whether the method for redistricting under the resolution would increase or decrease these costs. Under the current process, redistricting expenses are paid for by GRF appropriation item 035407, Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, within the budget of the Legislative Service Commission. In FY 2012, the Task Force incurred expenses of $666,186 for redistricting purposes, and an additional $31,209 in FY 2013. However, it should be noted that the resolution contains a provision that specifies that a ballot question must be proposed to the voters during the general election in the year following the adoption of a redistricting plan, which asks the voters whether or not the General Assembly should draw new districts. If it is determined through a vote that the General Assembly should draw new districts, then there could be additional redistricting costs incurred.

Ballot advertising costs

If both houses of the General Assembly approve the resolution, the Secretary of State would incur costs for ballot advertising under Section 1 of Article XVI of the Ohio Constitution. Section 1 requires that the ballot language, the explanations, and the arguments, if any, be published once a week for three consecutive weeks preceding an election in at least one newspaper of general circulation in each county of the state where a newspaper is published.

The ballot advertising costs that the Secretary of State incurs are paid for on a reimbursement basis from GRF moneys appropriated to the Controlling Board, specifically GRF line item 911441, Ballot Advertising Costs. Once authorized, the reimbursable amounts are transferred by the Controlling Board to the Statewide Ballot

Advertising Fund (Fund 5FH0) under the Secretary of State's budget. Ballot advertising expenses incurred statewide depend on the length of the ballot language. As a guide, the Secretary of State spent $447,473 in ballot advertising costs for statewide issues that appeared on the ballot during FY 2014. Statewide advertising costs for this resolution, because it involves a single ballot issue, would likely be considerably less. There would also be some additional ballot advertising costs incurred from the provision of the resolution that required a question be placed on the next general election ballot after a redistricting plan is adopted which asks if the General Assembly should create a new apportionment map.

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