Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Tom Wert

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 155 of the 130th G.A. **Date**: October 10, 2013

Status: As Introduced **Sponsor**: Sen. Burke

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Authorizes joint boards of county commissioners to conduct ditch proceedings via teleconference or videoconference

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Joint boards of county commissioners could realize a reduction in travel costs and associated reimbursements if they choose to conduct joint ditch proceedings via teleconference or videoconference.
- Joint boards of county commissioners could incur additional costs to purchase or lease teleconferencing or videoconferencing equipment if they choose to do so and are not already equipped for such conferences.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill authorizes, but does not require, joint boards of county commissioners to conduct joint county ditch proceedings via teleconference or videoconference. If a teleconference or videoconference meeting is scheduled, the bill requires a joint board to provide for public attendance and requires any participating commissioner or board of county commissioners to participate from the commisioners' office or board room where the public can attend. The bill also requires copies of any meeting-related documents to be sent to each member of a joint board via e-mail, FAX, or U.S. mail.

If a joint board of county commissioners decides to conduct such proceedings via teleconference or videoconference, counties could realize savings in direct travel costs or other associated administrative costs, such as mileage reimbursements for commissioners to travel to and from such meetings, any cost to provide physical space for the meetings, or other such expenses. These savings would likely vary by county, depending on the distances that would otherwise be traveled by commissioners to an in-person ditch proceeding. There could be some administrative costs associated with sending meeting documents, especially for postage if they are sent through the mail, but these would be minimal at most. Additionally, if a joint board of county commissioners chooses to conduct a ditch proceeding via teleconference or videoconference, but is not equipped to do so, there would be costs to purchase or lease teleconferencing or videoconferencing equipment or to subscribe to a teleconferencing or videoconferencing service. The magnitude of these costs would depend on the specific equipment or service being purchased.

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