



The Ohio Township Association (OTA) would like to thank the Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC) for the opportunity to comment on the proposed 2000 Local Impact Statements.

The OTA appreciated the ongoing effort of the Commission to provide information on the fiscal impact new laws in Ohio will have on townships. The LSC Local Impact Report helps educate our membership and the members of the General Assembly on the affect certain legislation will have on townships budgets and keeps legislators and local officials aware of any unfunded mandate created in legislation proposed and passed by the General Assembly.

As we have stated in the past, the fiscal impact legislation may have on townships, often is under appreciated. Requirement established in legislation such as filing, notification and public hearing requirements could create significant cost for townships. The OTA is pleased that LSC takes such cost into consideration when determining local fiscal impact. Further, the standards used by LSC to determine what constitutes a “Local Impact” for townships ensure that townships with smaller populations are smaller budgets are not overlooked.

A bill is determined to have fiscal impact if its estimated annual cost is more than \$1,000 for townships with a population of less than 5,000 or if its estimated annual cost is more than \$5,000 for townships with a population of more than 5,000. Although \$1,000 or \$5,000 many not seem like a great deal of money, when compared with the total budget of the township, the loss of such revenue may create a significant impact.

According to the 2000 report, there are several bills with a local impact for townships, potentially resulting in a loss of millions of dollars for township governments. The increased estate tax exemption in Senate Bill 108 presents the most potential loss of revenue for townships, estimated in millions of dollars. Senate Bill 207 removes a township’s ability to collect fines from railroad companies that obstruct a street or highway by a railroad train thus taking away revenue from a township. Although the actual impact these new laws will have on townships will not be known until the laws are put into practice, the fiscal analyses calculated by LSC provide a base for our townships to use to determine how a new law may affect their budgets.

The OTA appreciated the opportunity to provide our input and look forward to working further with the Legislative Service Commission.