Introduction

R.C. 103.143 requires the Legislative Budget Office (LBO) within the Legislative Service Commission to determine whether a local impact statement (LIS) is required for each bill that is introduced and referred to committee. An LIS may be required when a bill could result in net additional costs beyond a minimal amount to school districts, counties, municipalities, or townships. An LIS is not required for budget bills or joint resolutions. It is also not required when the bill is permissive or when the bill’s potential local costs are offset by additional revenues, offset by additional savings, or caused by a federal mandate. The LIS determination is based solely on the “As Introduced” version of the bill and does not change, even if provisions originally causing the LIS requirement are removed in subsequent or the enacted versions of the bill. Under the statute, LBO is also required to annually compile the final local impact statements completed for laws enacted in the preceding calendar year. The 2021 Report lists the 93 bills enacted in calendar year 2020 and contains the fiscal notes for the 13 House bills and two Senate bills which required an LIS.

The LIS requirement is met through the detailed analysis of local fiscal effects included in LBO’s fiscal notes. Regardless of whether a bill requires an LIS, the fiscal note analyzes the bill’s fiscal effects on both the state and local government. However, under R.C. 103.143, when a bill requiring an LIS is amended in a committee, the bill may be voted out of the committee by a simple majority vote with a revised LIS (a requirement fulfilled by preparing an updated fiscal note) or by a two-thirds vote without a revised LIS. Because various bills are exempted from the LIS requirement, some bills enacted in 2020 may have fiscal effects on local government in addition to the 15 bills that required an LIS. For those who are interested in the local fiscal effects of all legislation enacted in 2020, please see the LBO fiscal notes for those laws, which are available on the General Assembly’s website (www.legislature.ohio.gov) by clicking on Legislation/Search Legislation.

The Report contains comments from the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, the Ohio Municipal League, the Ohio Township Association, and the Ohio School Boards Association. LBO is required to circulate the draft Report to these associations for comment and to include their responses in the final Report. The final section of the Report is an appendix listing all 62 House bills and 31 Senate bills enacted in 2020.

This Report may be viewed online at www.lsc.ohio.gov by clicking on Publications, and then Local Impact Statement Report under the Publications by Title heading.