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Office

H.B. 107
(1_134_0378-1)
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 107's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: In House Commerce and Labor

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Baldrige

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill creates a new chapter of law regulating conveyance services, increasing costs paid from the Industrial Compliance Operating Fund (Fund 5560) used by the Division of Industrial Compliance in the Department of Commerce to pay for regulating various trades. The new costs would be for (1) licensing elevator mechanics and contractors, one year after the bill's effective date, and (2) employing a new program administrator to oversee this new function.
- These costs would be offset by license fees to be set by the Division. Licenses renew biennially under the bill.
- There could be approximately 600 to 1,000 individuals and entities in the elevator-related trades subject to licensure under the bill, possibly requiring the Division of Industrial Compliance to hire one program administrator. If so, pay and fringe benefit costs would be between \$59,000 and \$73,000 annually.

Detailed Analysis

Overview

The Division of Industrial Compliance within the Department of Commerce will incur additional costs to implement the new chapter of law created by the bill. The provisions of the bill are based on Revision 1 of National Elevator Industry, Inc.'s Model Elevator Law. The increased costs for the Division will for the most part come from (1) the requirement to license individuals employed as elevator mechanics and contractors, and (2) the requirement to administer and adopt rules pertaining to the issuance and renewal of these licenses. The Division would also incur some additional costs to reimburse members of the newly created Elevator Safety Review Board for their expenses. The increased costs will likely be paid from the Industrial

Compliance Operating Fund (Fund 5560), which funds other sections housed under the Division. These costs will likely be offset by license fees to be established by the Division. According to the Department, there are around 33,000 elevators, escalators, and commercially installed accessibility units in the state. There could be approximately 600 to 1,000 individuals and entities in the elevator-related trades who are working in Ohio and subject to licensure under the bill. The lower figure is based on May 2019 employment data for elevator and escalator installers and repairers as shown in the Occupational Employment Statistics database maintained by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.¹ The higher figure is an estimate that comes from the Ohio Department of Commerce.

Licensing elevator mechanics and elevator contractors

The bill requires a person or business entity that provides conveyance services (erecting, constructing, installing, altering, servicing, repairing, dismantling, removing, or maintaining a conveyance) with certain exceptions in buildings or structures to be licensed by the Division as an elevator mechanic or elevator contractor, beginning one year after the bill's effective date. Under current law, only elevator inspectors are required to be licensed. The new regulatory costs would presumably be offset by licensing fees which are to be established by the Division, as well as fines. The bill establishes a maximum potential fine of \$1,500, a potential jail sentence of up to 30 days, or both, for violations of the law. License fees and fines will be deposited into Fund 5560.

Administration and enforcement

The Division will incur administrative costs for administering and adopting rules on the issuance and renewal of these licenses. The new regulatory responsibilities would involve the following: (1) assisting in the development of public awareness programs, (2) monitoring inspections and testing in order to ensure performance by licensees, (3) establishing fee schedules, and (4) setting standards for the approval of license testing agencies and continuing education. The Department anticipates that it will need to hire one program administrator to enforce the new regulations. Based on the state's employee classification plan, if a program administrator is hired at the starting annual salary of approximately \$45,000, it would bring the total annual cost for this position to approximately \$59,000 to \$73,000. This includes \$6,300 (14% of annual salary to cover the employer's share of retirement) and employer's share of health insurance (\$7,830 for single coverage and \$21,494 for family coverage under the state's traditional health plan). These costs would be paid from Fund 5560.

Elevator Safety Review Board

Lastly, the bill creates the Elevator Safety Review Board within the Division of Industrial Compliance to investigate violations of the new licensing chapter, hold disciplinary hearings, and assess penalties for violations as needed. The Elevator Safety Review Board would consist of nine members serving without a salary, although they would be reimbursed for all expenses necessary in the performance of their duties. Consequently, there will be some small increase in reimbursement expenses, with the costs being paid from Fund 5560.

¹ Occupational Employment Statistics for elevator and escalator installers and repairers. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (May 2019). <https://data.bls.gov/oes/#/occGeo/One%20occupation%20for%20multiple%20geographical%20areas>. Accessed on March 22, 2021.

Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes

- The substitute bill (I_134_0378-1) delays part of the fiscal effect on the Department of Commerce, as it delays the licensing requirement until one year after the bill's effective date. Licenses fees would not be collected until that date.
- The substitute bill creates the Elevator Safety Review Board within the Division of Industrial Compliance instead of within the Division's Board of Building Standards under the previous version of the bill. This provision does not have a fiscal effect since both the Division and Board of Building Standards expenses are paid from the Industrial Compliance Operating Fund (Fund 5560).