

Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

H.B. 547 135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for H.B. 547's Bill Analysis

Version: As Reported by House Economic and Workforce Development

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Wiggam and Gross

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) and Attorney General may both incur some additional costs for investigating a project owner's eligibility for a state low-income housing tax credit under the requirements of the bill.
- OHFA may revoke previously awarded tax credits for projects that do not comply with the criteria established by the bill.

Detailed Analysis

The bill prohibits the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) from awarding a state low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) to a housing project unless the project owner takes certain actions to limit tenancy in the project to individuals who are legally present in the United States. Under the bill, project owners may only rent to legally present individuals and maintain documentation of each renter's legal presence. The Attorney General and OHFA may both incur administrative costs to investigate eligibility concerns. If OHFA determines that a project owner has failed to maintain eligibility for the tax credit, OHFA is required to revoke the state tax credit. The bill allows for project owners to cure instances of noncompliance before a credit is revoked. Specifically, the bill limits the credit amount revoked to the proportion of units out of compliance and gives project owners the opportunity to reclaim revoked credits for units that have been brought into compliance with the requirements of the bill.

The Ohio LIHTC Program was established under H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly, the main operating budget act for the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium. It supplements and operates in conjunction with the long-standing federal LIHTC. The state program caps the amount of tax credits that can be awarded and claimed against state tax liabilities to \$100.0 million per fiscal year. More on the state LIHTC can be found on OHFA's website and in this <u>overview</u>.

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