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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 144**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 144's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Passed by the House

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Click and Lorenz

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- The Department of Public Safety (DPS) will likely incur additional costs related to expanding the existing Communication Disability Database in accordance with the bill and making the database available through countywide 9-1-1 systems. DPS is expected to absorb any additional costs incurred utilizing existing resources.
- The Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD) may experience a minimal increase in costs to make the required alterations to the verification form for inclusion in the database. OOD may also experience an increase in costs to conduct public outreach concerning the database. The total costs will depend on the methods of outreach used.
- Counties are likely to incur minimal new costs to adjust countywide 9-1-1 systems to interface with the database.

### **Detailed Analysis**

The bill expands the Communication Disability Database<sup>1</sup> that currently exists within the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to include any person with a disability and expands access to that database through countywide 9-1-1 systems.

#### **Department of Public Safety**

Under the bill, DPS will likely incur additional information technology costs to update and expand the existing database, including building an application programming interface (API) to

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<sup>1</sup> The Communication Disability Database was created by H.B. 115 of the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, which took effect August 1, 2018.

connect with the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center and to accommodate the inclusion of an applicant's telephone number, which the Ohio Revised Code does not currently require the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to collect. It should also be noted that the existing system is currently tied to the vehicle registration license plate record but not to a driver's license, and that additional changes to the system may be required if the designation is to apply to driver's licenses as well.

According to DPS, applications for inclusion in the existing Communication Disability Database are processed manually and the volume is currently manageable with existing staff. By expanding who is eligible for inclusion in the database, DPS expects applications to substantially increase. DPS is expected to absorb these costs utilizing existing resources, the magnitude of which is uncertain and will largely depend on the number of new applicants.

## **Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD)**

The bill alters the requirements related to the current verification form used by people to register with DPS for inclusion in the database. The change will allow the form to be used to register any person with a disability, instead of only those with communication disabilities as under current law. Additionally, it requires registrants to include their residential address and telephone number on the verification form. OOD may experience a minimal increase in costs to make the required alterations to the verification form. Lastly, OOD is required to conduct public outreach concerning the existence of the disability database, including by posting information about the database on its website. OOD will realize costs to conduct public outreach. However, these costs will depend on the methods of outreach chosen to be employed.

## **Department of Developmental Disabilities**

The bill requires the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) to make available on its website the verification form used to register persons in the database. DODD is also required to conduct public outreach regarding the existence of the database. The bill does not define the nature of that outreach, so it is unclear how large a burden the requirement will create for DODD. The addition of the form to DODD's website represents a minimal increase in administrative activity.

## **Countywide 9-1-1 systems**

Counties will likely incur new costs to program their 9-1-1 systems to interface with the database once DPS establishes the API. Because we do not know specifically how counties will adjust their systems, it is difficult to quantify any new costs. However, a network interface with an API is generally not overly complex and we would expect any new costs to be minimal. Specifically, the bill requires countywide 9-1-1 systems to connect to the database and to provide information regarding an individual's disability to local law enforcement officers, emergency medical service personnel, and firefighters that are responding to a 9-1-1 call concerning the individual.