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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**S.B. 180**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 180's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Johnson

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### Highlights

- The bill bans public entities, including the state and political subdivisions, from purchasing or otherwise acquiring small, unmanned aircraft systems (drones) that are manufactured or assembled by a foreign adversary. It also prohibits public entities from operating drones manufactured or assembled by a foreign adversary after May 1, 2027. Together, these prohibitions may have some impact on the procurement costs for public entities that choose to operate drones. The magnitude of any effect, however, is unclear.
- The bill requires the Secretary of State to semiannually compile a registry of foreign adversaries and post the registry on the Secretary's website. Costs to do this are likely to be minimal at most.

### Detailed Analysis

Under prohibitions established by the bill, public entities that choose to operate drones may realize changes to procurement costs to acquire drone systems or to replace drone systems currently being used. The magnitude of any fiscal effect, however, is unclear and would depend on the type of equipment, how it would be employed, the current drone fleet that would need replacing, and the market for drones at the time a public entity chooses to purchase a drone. Specifically, the bill prohibits a public entity, including the state or political subdivisions, from purchasing or otherwise acquiring drones manufactured or assembled by a foreign adversary and from operating drones that meet those conditions after May 1, 2027. It also prohibits state funds from being used in connection with the affected drones including through contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements. Although the specific fiscal effects are uncertain, we assume that limiting the market for drones in this manner could result in public entities facing higher prices than would otherwise be available. It is also uncertain whether existing drones owned by public

entities would satisfy the conditions of the bill. This makes it difficult to get any idea of how many existing drones would need to be replaced.

The bill defines “foreign adversaries” as countries appearing on the registry of foreign adversaries, which the bill creates. The bill assigns the Secretary of State the duty to compile and update the registry at least once every six months and to publish the registry on the Secretary’s website. To comply with these requirements, the Secretary of State is likely to incur an uptick in administrative costs. However, because the bill requires the registry to essentially be a compilation of various federal lists, any increase in costs is likely to be small.