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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 441
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 441's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Stewart and A. Mathews

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Robert Meeker, Senior Budget Analyst

The bill is expected to have a minimal fiscal effect on the state and local subdivisions. Under current law, an action for libel or slander must be commenced within one year after a cause of action accrues. The bill specifies that, for the one-year statute of limitation for libel and slander, the cause of action starts from the publication of the libelous material or when the slanderous words are spoken, respectively, regardless of when the aggrieved person became aware, or should have become aware, of the libel or slander. For an action for libel, each publication of the alleged libelous material gives rise to a new limitations period. The bill is likely to decrease the number of civil actions filed with local courts or to expedite the dismissal of claims filed, minimally reducing the workload of the courts. Any resulting cost savings will be offset by a reduction in revenues in the form of fees and court costs.