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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 273
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 273's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Koehler

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Jessica Murphy, Senior Budget Analyst

Highlights

- The bill is generally permissible in nature. Any costs generated for law enforcement that choose to accept storage of a firearm will be a function of the frequency and number of firearms held in storage and the length of time such firearms are in their possession. The costs of the storage may be offset by the collection of fees that are allowed for under the bill.
- The Attorney General will incur minimal administrative costs to prescribe and make available on its website an application form to be used for firearm storage arrangements and to issue proposed standard operating procedures, a model storage agreement, and other guidance.

Detailed Analysis

The bill allows a person who owns a firearm to store the firearm with a federally licensed firearms dealer or law enforcement agency under prescribed conditions (as outlined in the [LSC bill analysis](#)). The bill explicitly states that nothing in the bill requires a federally licensed firearms dealer or law enforcement agency to (1) accept a firearm for storage pursuant to the bill, or (2) to do so free of charge. The bill further provides guidelines and civil immunity for the voluntary storage of firearms.

State and local law enforcement

The fiscal impact on state and local law enforcement that choose to accept storage of a firearm under the bill will be a function of the frequency and number of firearms held in storage, and the length of time such firearms are in their possession. However, because a law enforcement agency is not required to accept a firearm for storage free of charge, such costs may be offset through fees.

To some degree, the bill may codify existing authority for law enforcement to enter into storage agreements. LBO is aware of at least one jurisdiction, Cincinnati Police Department, that currently offers a “safe firearm storage program.” Once enacted, the bill may potentially incentivize others to participate by (1) providing immunity from civil liability under existing law for any injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly caused by or related to the acceptance, storage, or return of a firearm, and (2) making available model agreements and guidance available through the Attorney General that law enforcement may utilize or adopt. That said, the bill does not require participation.

Attorney General

The Attorney General will incur minimal administrative costs to provide certain resources for firearm storage arrangements. This involves prescribing and making available an application form on the Attorney General’s website and issuing proposed standard operating procedures, a model storage agreement, and guidance on policies for securing a firearm and returning a firearm. These costs are expected to be absorbed using existing resources.