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Office

H.B. 238
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Rogers and Lorenz

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

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Highlights

- Political subdivisions with a parking violations bureau may incur indeterminate additional costs, in some cases potentially in the millions of dollars, to add coin and cash options as payment methods for paid public parking, and to review certain parking tickets and rescind those that were issued during the bill's three-minute grace period.
- The Department of Public Safety will likely incur minimal one-time costs to adopt standards related to authorizing persons to pay for parking meters via multiple payment methods.

Detailed Analysis

The bill modifies the law pertaining to parking infractions and enforcement, including the timing of parking ticket issuance, how parking meter payments may be paid, and the timing of default judgements making an appeal.

Fiscal effects

The use and implementation of public parking meters varies by political subdivision. As such, the bill's fiscal effect is likely to vary based on: (1) whether a political subdivision has paid parking, (2) the types of payment methods currently accepted, and (3) the capabilities of the technology offered by the vendor utilized by the political subdivision for paid parking. While these costs could be minimal for some jurisdictions, others may experience significant costs in order to upgrade equipment.

Timing of ticket issuance

The bill requires a parking violations bureau to rescind a parking ticket that was issued within three minutes of a person parking in a parking zone if that person paid for parking within

that three-minute period. Based on LBO research, it appears that parking enforcement officers in at least some political subdivisions do not have the ability to assess when a customer paid for their parking session, making it difficult to discern whether an unpaid vehicle was recently parked (within the grace period) and had not yet paid or if the parking session had expired. As a result, the determination as to whether a ticket was issued during the bill's grace period may ultimately fall on parking violations bureaus, which will need to review and verify the start time of the parking session and the time that the ticket was issued.

The impact to any given political subdivision will depend on the capabilities of the technology utilized by the political subdivision for paid parking, the number of parking violation appeals received alleging the ticket was issued during the three-minute grace period, and each parking violation bureau's existing staff and available resources.

The bill will likely result in a number of parking tickets being successfully dismissed, which would create an indeterminate amount in loss revenue for impacted local jurisdictions.

Parking meter payment methods

The bill requires in all circumstances that a person may pay parking fees at a parking meter using cash, coin, or credit card, as an alternative to any other specified payment method. The Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS) will adopt standards that authorize these multiple payment methods at a parking meter or other methods selected by DPS. The costs for DPS to develop these standards will likely be minimal and one-time.

LBO research indicates that many political subdivisions with public parking meters, including the cities of Cleveland and Toledo, generally already accept various types of payment, including cash and coins, and would not likely be impacted by the bill's parking meter payment provisions. However, other political subdivisions, such as the city of Columbus, may need to incur additional costs to ensure that all parking meters accept cash, coin, and card. Those costs may be significant as detailed immediately below. It is unclear how many cities may mirror the city of Columbus.

City of Columbus – estimated costs

For background, in 2022 the city of Columbus replaced its single space meters that accepted coins due to the phase out of the 2G technology used by these meters. These older meters were replaced by multi-space kiosks. While coin and cash payments are still accepted for most pay parking in Columbus, the Short North and University District are residential neighborhoods and do not have parking meters or kiosks. Residents with parking permits may park for free, but declared visitors for these residents must pay for parking through ParkColumbus mobile pay.¹ There are no metered options in these neighborhoods.

The city of Columbus estimates that it will cost between \$7.5 million and \$8.25 million to add coin/cash options in areas of the city where physical payment methods are not currently available. This would include an estimated 1,000 to 1,100 parking payment kiosks and single space Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and 30-minute parking meters at a unit

¹ ParkColumbus mobile pay requires a credit/debit card, Google Pay, or Apple Pay, and offers multiple ways to pay for parking, including via a mobile app, the ParkColumbus website, text to pay, and by telephone.

cost of \$7,500 each. This estimate does not consider other costs including installation of those meters and kiosks, a monthly connectivity fee, weekly collection of coins, maintenance fees, and signage. In 2024, the city of Columbus generated \$7.8 million in parking revenue citywide. Of that amount, around \$97,500 (less than 2%) was coin generated.

Local courts

The bill extends the time frame to appeal a judgment or default judgment for failure to pay a parking ticket from within 15 days to within three years of the entry of the judgment. The bill also extends the period of time by which a judgment or default judgement may be issued from within three years (as in current law) to four years after issuance of a parking ticket. These extensions only apply to parking tickets issued after the bill's effective date.

According to the Ohio Judicial Conference, most courts with jurisdiction over parking tickets process very few appeals currently.² However, it is possible that the time frame extension for appeals and the addition of the "three-minute rule" may lead to additional appeals being filed annually. Any increase in adjudication costs is likely to be absorbed administratively.

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² Courts with jurisdiction over parking tickets vary by political subdivision and may include municipal, county, or juvenile courts.