

## Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

H.B. 139 (l\_136\_0380-2) 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

# Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for H.B. 139's Bill Analysis

Version: In House Local Government

Primary Sponsor: Rep. T. Hall

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

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#### **Highlights**

 Political subdivisions could incur new fire hydrant system maintenance, repair, and replacement costs depending on the scope of the required fire hydrant maintenance plans they choose to adopt under the bill.

### **Detailed Analysis**

The bill requires any political subdivision that owns or operates fire hydrants, and the associated service mains and water tanks, to adopt a fire hydrant maintenance plan within 12 months of the bill's effective date. These fire hydrant maintenance plans may contain an inspection schedule and records concerning testing, repairs, alterations, replacement, and details about the maintenance conducted. The bill then gives political subdivisions authority to ensure that the fire hydrant systems are being inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with the plan adopted by the political subdivision maintenance plan.

Any new costs that a political subdivision incurs under the bill would be permissive and would depend on the scope of the hydrant maintenance plan adopted. Currently, political subdivisions are not required to have these plans put in place, but routine maintenance of fire hydrants is typical. For example, fire department officials in Akron, Cambridge, Canton, and Oakwood reported to LBO that those cities conduct annual hydrant flushing, testing, and maintenance. Cleveland (with 77,000 hydrants) conducts tests in the spring and summer. Political subdivisions could also incur administrative costs for making sure that records of these activities are being retained according to the same schedule as the local public water system asset management program that is currently required under statute.

## **Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes**

The substitute bill (I\_136\_0380-2) removes the requirement to test the flow rate of fire hydrants annually. Additionally, it removes the requirement that the State Fire Marshal ensure the periodic testing and maintenance of the fire hydrants. Under these requirements in the As Introduced bill, political subdivisions that oversee fire hydrant systems could have incurred significant additional maintenance and repair costs. In contrast, the substitute bill requires political subdivisions to adopt a fire hydrant maintenance plan but gives them leeway to determine the scope of these plans. This change is expected to reduce the fiscal impact on political subdivisions when compared to the requirements in the As Introduced bill.

Page | 2 H.B. 139, Fiscal Note