



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 551 of the 131st G.A.

Date: November 16, 2016

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Hill

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: To require the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Health to adopt rules governing reviews of registered sanitarians and sanitarians-in-training who conduct inspections of retail food establishments and food service operations

State Fiscal Highlights

- The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health could incur some minimal costs in establishing joint rules and producing an annual report regarding the inspection of food service operations and retail food establishments.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Under continuing law, a county board of health or other local entity issues licenses to food service operations, such as restaurants, and retail food establishments, such as grocery stores. As part of that responsibility, the entity inspects the licensees to determine compliance with food safety regulations. These inspections are conducted by registered sanitarians and sanitarians-in-training. At the state level, the Director of Health is responsible for evaluating the local food service operations licensure programs and the Director of Agriculture is responsible for evaluating the local retail food establishment licensure programs. At least once every three years, the directors are required to survey each local licensing entity to determine if the entity is qualified to administer and enforce food safety regulations.

The bill requires this survey to include a review of the inspections conducted by sanitarians and sanitarians-in-training and specifies certain criteria the review must meet.¹ These criteria seem to conform closely with current practice, so it is unlikely that the bill's requirements will create a significant new cost. Under the bill, the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Health are required to establish, by joint rules, a mechanism for these reviews, and to publish an annual report identifying the most common violations that are missed during inspections. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health could incur some minimal costs pertaining to the staff time needed to develop these rules and publish an annual report.

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¹ Please see the LSC bill analysis for a description of these criteria.