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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

S.B. 300
(l_134_1045-3)
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for S.B. 300's Bill Analysis

Version: In Senate General Government Budget

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Wilson

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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The bill makes several modifications to various provisions of the Notary Public Law. In totality these changes appear to have little direct fiscal impact on the Secretary of State (SOS), which is responsible for the registration of notaries. The bill specifies that a notary whose commission is revoked by the SOS for official misconduct or incapacity is ineligible for reappointment as a notary. The bill also modifies the procedures for notaries administering an oath of affirmation by specifying that a notary failing to administer this oath when required is to be removed from office. These changes are unlikely to have anything more than a negligible impact on the number of notaries registered with the SOS.

The costs of registering a notary public and issuing licenses is paid from the Notary Commission Fund (Fund 4120). This fund also collects the $15 notary public license fee. Notary licenses are valid for five years, except for those held by practicing attorneys, which are valid as long as the attorney lives in Ohio. The fund collects approximately $380,000 on average each fiscal year, although the revenues do fluctuate. Expenses paid from Fund 4120 also fluctuate and have recently amounted to between approximately $260,000 and $475,000 annually. As of May 2022, the current cash balance of Fund 4120 is $823,182.

The bill also contains a provision that adds clerks of courts of record and deputy registrars to the list of county government officials that are required to accept electronically notarized documents, if they contain an authenticator certificate. County auditors, engineers, and recorders are already required to accept these documents under current law. Requiring these entities to accept these documents appears to have no direct fiscal impact on these entities.