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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 281
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 281's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Seitz and T. Young

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Shaina Morris, Budget Analyst

The bill makes modifications to current law and procedures regarding certain civil actions for damages. Under the bill, a civil action for damages for a criminal act requires the criminal act must have been committed by a person who has been previously convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, the offense charged for such criminal act, or previously has been adjudicated a delinquent child in connection with the criminal act, in a final, unappealable order.

Overall, the changes made by the bill appear to impact a narrow category of civil filings and will largely result in a fiscally negligible impact for the courts. The bill may change the manner in which evidence is presented in civil courts and how a case is ultimately adjudicated. By requiring a criminal conviction or guilty plea to a criminal act in a civil action for damages, it is possible cases may otherwise not be filed, or if filed, disposed of more quickly. Such outcomes create a savings effect on court operations and hearing-related costs. These savings are not readily measurable and the magnitude of which will depend on the number of such filings in any given court.