



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 127 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Reported by House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor

Sponsor: Reps. Perales and Dever

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Establishes Ohio Building Code requirements related to structural steel welding and bridge welding

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- If the requirements dealing with structural steel welding inspection increase construction costs, then it is possible that contractors working on state or local construction projects would pass these costs on to the buyer through higher pricing.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires the Board of Building Standards within the Department of Commerce to adopt rules pertaining to: (1) the inspection of structural steel welding, (2) requiring the Division of Industrial Compliance or a certified entity to conduct all necessary inspections, (3) establishing requirements and procedures to become certified to inform inspections, (4) establish fees for conducting inspections, becoming certified to conduct inspections, and renewing certifications, (5) govern the investigation of complaints, and (6) develop a policy regarding records maintenance. The requirements regarding welders in the bill are that: (1) all welders performing structural steel welding be tested and certified by a facility that has been accredited by the American Welding Society (AWS), (2) all structural steel welding meets standards established in the AWS Structural Steel Welding Code, and (3) all structural steel welding inspections listed in a project's job specifications be completed by a certified welding inspector. These standards are to apply to all construction projects that involve structural steel welding in accordance with the AWS structural steel (D1.1) and bridge welding (D1.5) codes, except in cases when standards set by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) apply. The bill further prohibits a contractor, subcontractor, or project manager who is responsible for structural steel welding from recklessly failing to ensure that proposed requirements are met. The bill also excludes bridge welding from the bill's requirements.

On the state level, as an example, Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) contracts do not specifically require AWS accreditation, but, OFCC does require that contractors obtain, maintain, and pay for any permit, inspection, or license applicable to the contractor's specific trade. Therefore, if the requirements of the bill

were already specifically incorporated in a local building code, then FCC would require such specifications. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) however, does require contractors adhere to AWS standards.

Overall, it is difficult to determine whether or not the requirements related to steel and bridge welding would result in any direct fiscal impact to the state or political subdivisions. The bill, in effect, would appear to require welders working on the projects specified in the bill to be tested at a certified AWS facility. What impact this could have on contract costs for these projects is unclear; however, it is possible that any increased costs to businesses for having their welders undergo this testing process could be passed on in contract pricing.