



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Terry Steele

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 766 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Arndt

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Prohibits property owners from failing to comply with a notice to remove junk watercraft

Local Fiscal Highlights

- There are 301,143 registered motor boats and 254,466 paddle craft registered in Ohio for a total of 555,609 registered watercrafts statewide. The number of junk vessels, however, is unknown.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill prohibits a property owner from knowingly failing to comply with a notice from a local authority to cover, house, or remove a junk vessel, such as a watercraft, or outboard motor on the owner's property within ten days of receiving a notice provided by local authorities specified in the bill. The prohibition in the bill applies to junk vessels or outboard motors that are three years old or older, apparently inoperable, and have a fair market value of \$1,500 or less.

The number of junk watercraft extant statewide is unknown. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Watercraft, however, tracks the amount of abandoned vessels in which the Division processes title searches for disposition. In 2017, the Division completed 392 searches, and thus far in 2018 has conducted 297 such searches. Overall, there are 301,143 registered motor boats and 254,466 paddle craft registered in Ohio.

A violation of the prohibition in the bill is a minor misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$150. Ultimately, the cost associated with the bill would depend on the number of notices that a local authority sends out. There could also be municipal court costs for any cases which result from failure to adequately cover, house, or remove the watercraft. The costs for such cases would likely be minimal, and would be partially offset through fine revenue collected. In addition, there are also state court costs of \$29 for misdemeanor offenses. Of this amount, \$20 is credited to the Indigent Defense Support Fund (Fund 5DY0) and \$9 to the Victims of Crime/Reparations Fund (Fund 4020).