



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Terry Steele

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 3 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Passed by the House

Sponsor: Reps. Duffey and Hagan

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Creates the DataOhio Board, establishes the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and makes an appropriation under the Auditor of State's budget

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill creates the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program to be administered by the State Librarian. That program will issue grants of \$10,000 to the qualifying public entities. There is no money appropriated for this purpose under the bill.
- The bill also requires the State Library Board to provide meeting facilities for the newly created DataOhio Board that is to investigate various aspects of public records transparency and issue a yearly report on its findings and recommendations. As a consequence, the State Library Board might incur some small administrative costs to do this work.
- The bill appropriates \$350,000 in GRF money in FY 2018 for the Auditor of State to develop a uniform chart of accounts, establish uniform accounting procedures, and adopt and implement rules for all public offices in Ohio.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill establishes the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program to be administered by the State Librarian. The program will provide \$10,000 grants to local government entities that meet eligibility requirements to be established by the State Librarian. These requirements include the posting of electronic records on the Internet in an open format that can be accessed by the public. Eligible recipients include counties, townships, municipalities, and public libraries, as well as regional planning commissions, metropolitan planning organizations, or regional councils of government that apply for grant funding on behalf of the just-mentioned local governments. The bill does not contain appropriations to fund these grants.

The bill also requires that the Auditor of State develop uniform accounting procedures and charts of accounts that may be used by all public offices. Public offices that adopt these procedures for financial recordkeeping would earn a "DataOhio Transparency Award-Uniformity of Accounting." To cover the costs that the Auditor of State might incur as a result of developing the guidelines, the bill appropriates \$350,000

in supplementary funding during FY 2018 under existing GRF line item 070321, Operating Expenses, within the Auditor of State's budget.

Additionally, the bill requires the Auditor to establish and operate a website, registered at data.Ohio.gov, through which the public can access public records created by state government and other public offices. Creation and maintenance of the website could increase the Auditor's administrative burden. Whatever costs there might be, if any, to design and operate this website could not be recouped by a public record or data access fee, as the bill prohibits the Auditor of State from charging one.

Finally, the bill creates the DataOhio Board to make recommendations to facilitate the ability of the public to find and use data sets generated by the state government and other public offices. It requires the board to meet at least ten times a year and make an annual report to the General Assembly of its recommendations. The board's meeting facilities are to be provided by the State Library Board. The DataOhio Board is composed primarily of state and local government officials, but also includes members representing the newspaper business, businesses that use public record data sets, and data consumers. Board members do not receive compensation, but are to be reimbursed for expenses, which may increase state expenditures by a negligible amount.