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H.B. 211
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 211's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Arndt

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill would have a minimal fiscal impact on courts handling cases involving a property owner's attempt to recover the cost for storing or removing abandoned vessels or outboard motors.
- It is possible that counties may see some small gain in sale proceeds they retain from the sale of abandoned vessels or outboard motors under the revised auction procedure outlined in the bill.
- The number of abandoned vessels statewide is unknown. However, the Department of Natural Resources carried out almost 300 title searches to resolve disposition in 2018. Overall, there are approximately 300,000 motor boats currently registered in Ohio.

Detailed Analysis

The bill could have some minimal fiscal effect on courts of common pleas or other relevant courts for handling civil cases involving the cost of storing or disposing of abandoned vessels or outboard motors. Any such costs would be offset by court fees that are assessed for adjudicating these cases. Also, clerks of courts may see some additional work for processing title transfers as outlined in the bill, but would recoup these costs through title fees, which are \$15. Finally, it is also possible that counties may see some small amount of additional revenue from the portion of the auction sale proceeds they are permitted to retain under the revised auction procedures that the bill establishes.

It is difficult to estimate the number of abandoned vessels or outboard motors that could be subject to the bill's provisions. Records from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Parks and Watercraft indicate that it completed 392 title searches in 2017 and 297 such searches in 2018. Overall, there are 301,143 registered motor boats and 254,466 paddle craft registered in Ohio.

The bill sets out different procedures than under current law by which a property owner may dispose of an abandoned vessel or outboard motor, depending on its fair market value. If the fair market value is under \$10,000, the bill outlines a process the property owner on whose property the abandoned vessel is located must follow in order for the clerk of courts to transfer title. If the abandoned vessel or outboard motor is worth over \$10,000, the bill allows for the property owner to sell it by auction. Under the auction procedure, the property owner would keep the amount owed for storage and repair. The remaining amount would go to the county, unless within one year's time, the original vessel or outboard motor owner seeks to claim his or her share of the sale proceeds. Otherwise, the county would retain the remaining amount for use in the general fund.

Finally, the bill requires the Division of Parks and Watercraft to issue a disclosure statement to all registered watercraft owners detailing the provisions and requirements in the bill. This would impose little if any cost to the Division, as it would be part of the existing triennial vessel registration process. Any costs incurred would be paid from the Waterways Safety Fund (Fund 7086).