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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 238**  
**133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 238's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Reported by House Civil Justice

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Cera and Scherer

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** Yes

Tom Wert, Senior Budget Analyst

The bill makes changes to the Public Employee Whistleblower Law (PEWL) that have no apparent fiscal effects for the state or political subdivisions. The bill adds protections under the PEWL for employees in the classified and unclassified civil service who file a complaint with the Inspector General alleging a violation of state or federal statutes, rules, or regulations or the misuse of public resources. Under current law, whistleblowers who file complaints with the Inspector General only receive whistleblower protections under the PEWL if the complaint is for a criminal offense. Changes made by the bill do not appear to increase the likelihood that cases for violations of the PEWL would be filed, or that the number of whistleblower complaints filed with the Inspector General would increase. The Inspector General's jurisdiction covers state agencies within the executive branch, including state boards and commissions.