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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**S.B. 31**  
**133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly**

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

[Click here for S.B. 31's Bill Analysis](#)

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

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Roegner

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- The bill may increase the annual costs that state and local public offices incur: (1) to train staff in public records policy, and (2) for staff to expend additional time and effort to ensure that exempted information is not disclosed. It appears that such public offices generally can absorb these costs utilizing existing staffing levels and appropriated funds.
- The Ohio Department of Health and local boards of health may experience a minimal increase in administrative costs to obtain written consent from individuals participating in contact tracing.

### **Detailed Analysis**

#### **Information disclosure**

The bill adds emergency service telecommunicators, members of regional physician advisory boards, and certain Ohio National Guard members to the list of professions whose residential and familial information is exempted from disclosure under the Public Records Law. The bill also clarifies that, under existing professions covered by this exemption, (1) EMT includes first responders, and (2) judge means either state or federal.

The bill further allows such an individual to request that their address be redacted from any record of a public office that is publicly available on the Internet in which their residential and familial information appears, except for the records of the county auditor. Finally, as it applies to publicly available records stored by the county auditor, the bill allows such an individual to request that the county auditor replace the individual's name with their initials.

As noted, this exclusion already applies to certain listed professions under current law. Because of this, public offices have procedures in place for the removal or redaction of personal information of these professions. Thus, the addition of professions protected under this

exemption would appear to be work that public offices generally can absorb utilizing existing staffing levels and appropriated funds.

The bill also modifies the type of information the Bureau of Workers' Compensation or Industrial Commission must disclose in response to a written request made by a journalist. The primary effect is largely clarifying that a claimant's name can be, and under the bill must be, provided in addition to their address and telephone number regardless whether their claims are active or closed. This change will have no direct fiscal effect on either state agency.

## **Contact tracing**

The bill prohibits the Governor, when adopting or issuing orders, or the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), another state agency, a local board of health, or any other person or government entity under contract, from requiring an individual to participate in contact tracing. The bill requires written consent to participate in contact tracing. The bill also prohibits any penalties, including withholding medical treatment, from being imposed on an individual who refuses to participate in contact tracing efforts. The bill specifies that any record created during the contact tracing process is not a public record and that disclosure of protected health information collected during the process is subject to existing state law restrictions consistent with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. ODH and local boards of health may experience a minimal increase in administrative costs to obtain written consent from individuals participating in contact tracing.