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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 602**  
**(I\_133\_2328-1)**  
**133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly**

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

[Click here for H.B. 602's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** In House Ways and Means

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Rogers and Lipps

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- Changing the process which county auditors use to publish notices of upcoming property tax foreclosures could yield some cost savings for those local offices.

### **Detailed Analysis**

The bill could reduce the advertising costs for county auditors associated with impending property tax foreclosures. Ultimately, cost reductions will depend on how many properties would be subject to foreclosure in each county and thereby subject to the notice requirements in the bill. Specifically, the bill allows counties to satisfy foreclosure publication requirements by publishing only once, instead of three times, in a newspaper, and by placing a notice on a website agreed upon by those officials involved with property tax foreclosure proceedings. Should these officials not agree on which website to use, the administrative judge will determine which website will be used to publish the notice. The website notice must begin to appear the week after the newspaper advertisement and remain until the foreclosure proceeding results in a judgment and finding against the property. The publication requirement is deemed to be complete once the website publication has appeared for two weeks. The bill also requires the prosecuting attorney to file an affidavit to the applicable court affirming that the online notice publication requirements have been met. This is similar to current law attestation requirements for newspapers. There would be some small costs to county prosecutors for filings these affidavits.

### **Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes**

The substitute version of the bill (I\_133\_2328-1) makes three primary changes. Only one of these changes appears to have any fiscal impact, which is minimal. The substitute version of the bill requires a prosecuting attorney to file an affidavit with the applicable court affirming

that the online notice publication requirements of the bill have been met. There would likely be some minimal costs to county prosecutors for filing these affidavits.

Secondly, the bill specifies that instead of placing notice of foreclosure on a website maintained by the clerk of courts, that notice will be placed on a website agreed upon by those officials involved with property tax foreclosure proceedings. If those officials involved cannot determine which website should be used, the administrative judge involved in the proceedings shall determine the website. There is no apparent fiscal impact to this change.

Finally, the substitute version of the bill expressly permits the second and third notice publications in a newspaper to be made in abbreviated form as allowed under current law's publication procedures for state and local government notices or advertisements. This simply defines what is current practice with respect to these particular notices, and therefore, has no fiscal impact.