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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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S.B. 20
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 20's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate Local Government and Elections

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Hackett

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Tom Wert, Senior Budget Analyst

Highlights

- Counties may be able to secure long term utility prices at rates lower than they would otherwise pay by contracting for light, heating, or power for terms in excess of ten years.
- The bill contains an emergency clause and would therefore go into immediate effect.

Detailed Analysis

The bill allows a board of county commissioners to contract for lighting, heating, or power for periods in excess of ten years and may result in long-term savings on utility costs paid by counties. Under current law contracts for such utilities are limited to a maximum term of ten years. Because the bill allows for longer term contracts under a joint purchasing program, counties may be able to secure utilities pricing for future years (beyond ten) at rates lower than they otherwise enjoy when renegotiating contracts at maximum intervals of ten years. It is difficult, however, to estimate any potential savings as they would depend on the future price of the contracted utility, which are quite variable. The bill contains an emergency clause and thus would go into immediate effect.