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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 140
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 140's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Ways and Means

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Merrin

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill modifies the way information about proposed property tax levies is presented to voters in required ballot advertising and on the actual ballot itself. These changes in format could make the ballot language slightly longer. Consequently, political subdivisions may incur some small additional ballot advertising and, to a lesser extent, some additional ballot printing costs.

Detailed Analysis

The bill changes the way details about property tax levies are presented to voters in required ballot advertising and on election ballots. Taken together, these changes are likely to make the language of a property tax ballot issue slightly longer. An illustration of this can be found in the LSC bill analysis accompanying this bill. Consequently, there may be some small additional ballot advertising costs and, possibly, some very small additional ballot printing costs.

Generally speaking, ballot measures, including the language of the issue to be voted on, are required to be advertised in a newspaper of general circulation over two consecutive weeks. To understand how the changes in ballot formatting could affect ballot advertising costs, LBO consulted with the Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAEO) to assess the extent of any possible increase in ballot advertising costs. Although an increase in ballot advertising costs would be likely, those additional costs would be minimal, even negligible, overall. Additionally, in cases where ballots are printed, such as for certain absent voter ballots, it could result in some additional ballot printing costs in cases where the additional ballot language results in a ballot extending to an additional page. As a practical matter, such cases would likely be uncommon, and any additional resulting printing costs incurred would also be quite small.