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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

S.B. 156
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 156's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate Veterans & Public Safety

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Roegner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Robert Meeker, Budget Analyst

Highlights

- The bill may increase the number of civil actions filed in certain local trial courts challenging a local ordinance regulating knives. The frequency of such filings against a political subdivision, and the related defense and settlement costs, are unpredictable with most political subdivisions presumably amending as applicable their ordinances to conform to the bill.

Detailed Analysis

Under current law, local regulation that constrains the right to bear arms is preempted by the state of Ohio. The bill adds knives to the list of protected arms under Ohio law.

Under continuing law, any person or group adversely affected by local regulation of their right to bear arms may bring forth a civil action seeking damages, declaratory relief, and/or injunctive relief against the political subdivision responsible for the regulation and its enforcement. The civil action is filed against that political subdivision in the appropriate common pleas, municipal, or county court. If the person or group prevails, any damages awarded by the court are paid by the political subdivision along with a separate award for reasonable expenses.

The frequency with which political subdivisions, subsequent to the bill's enactment, may become involved in litigation involving their regulation of knives and any resulting settlements are unpredictable. Presumably, political subdivisions generally will amend their regulation of knives to conform to the bill. That said, it is likely that local trial courts generally can absorb any additional work into their daily operations with no discernible ongoing fiscal effect, as such civil actions are unlikely to become a significant part of a court's annual caseload.