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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 479  
(1\_134\_2114)  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 479's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** In House Government Oversight

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Oelslager

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### Highlights

- The bill redraws U.S. congressional district lines in Ohio based on the 2020 decennial census. Because of the rate of population growth relative to other states in the nation, the number of congressional districts in Ohio must be reduced from 16 to 15.
- The direct costs associated with Ohio's current decennial redistricting for both General Assembly and congressional districts are paid from two GRF line items under the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) budget group. Since FY 2020 and through October 2021, expenditures from these two line items have amounted to just over \$625,000.
- County boards of elections will incur some new costs for remapping, redistricting, and database reprogramming as a result of the new boundaries established in the bill.

### Detailed Analysis

The bill establishes U.S. congressional district boundaries for the state based on the 2020 decennial census. As a result, Ohio will see a reduction of one congressional seat, lowering the number of districts from 16 to 15. The legislative process of redrawing these districts and General Assembly districts is supported by GRF line items under the LSC budget group: 035407, Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, and 035420, Ohio Redistricting Commission. Since FY 2020 and through October 2021, expenditures from these two line items totaled \$625,185. These expenditures were for redistricting mapping software applications, consulting and research services, mileage reimbursements, and other such expenses related to the process of redistricting.

In addition to the state costs, the 88 county boards of elections will also incur costs for the decennial redistricting process. These costs would be related to remapping and re-precincting counties, reprogramming database systems, and potentially reprogramming voting machines where applicable.

## **Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes**

The substitute version of the bill (I\_134\_2114) provides the proposed congressional map boundaries required for redistricting, rather than simply declaring the intent of the General Assembly to draw those congressional districts.