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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 345
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Howse and Crossman

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Director of the Legislative Service Commission to prepare a human impact statement for each bill or resolution that proposes to amend criminal justice law.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Human impact statements

The bill requires the Director of the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) to prepare a human impact statement for each bill or joint resolution introduced or offered in the General Assembly that proposes to create or amend a criminal prohibition or criminal penalty or to amend the law governing imprisonment, correctional supervision, or the rehabilitation of offenders. The human impact statement must be prepared before the bill or joint resolution is recommended for passage or adoption by the House or Senate committee of the General Assembly to which it was referred, and again before either house of the General Assembly takes up the bill or joint resolution for final consideration.

The statement must analyze whether the new or amended criminal prohibition, criminal penalty, or law, when implemented or enforced, would have a disparate impact on a racial or ethnic group, on an age group, or on a gender.¹ “Disparate impact on a racial or ethnic group, on an age group, or on a gender” includes increased exposure of the group or gender to police contact, criminal investigation, detention, pretrial release, post-trial release, prosecution, plea bargaining, adjudication, conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, correctional supervision, or rehabilitation.² Specifically, the statement must indicate one of the following:³

¹ R.C. 103.147(B).

² R.C. 103.147(A).

³ R.C. 103.147(B).

- That the bill or joint resolution would have a disparate impact on a racial or ethnic group, age group, or gender and explain that impact;
- That the bill or joint resolution would not have a disparate impact on a racial or ethnic group, age group, or gender;
- That it cannot be determined whether the bill or joint resolution would have a disparate impact on any racial or ethnic group, age group, or gender; or
- That the LSC Director cannot determine within the time allotted whether the bill or joint resolution would have a disparate impact on any racial or ethnic group, age group, or gender.

The LSC Director may request any state government entity or officer, or local governmental entity or officer, to provide any information the Director requires to complete the statement. An entity or officer must comply with the request as directed in it.⁴

The bill requires the LSC Director to provide the human impact statement solely to inform the members of the General Assembly. The bill enumerates that (1) the statement does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either house of the General Assembly for any purpose and (2) the Director's failure to prepare a human impact statement before a committee or house considers a bill or joint resolution does not impair the validity of any bill or joint resolution passed or adopted by either or both houses of the General Assembly.⁵

Under the bill, a human impact statement is a public record once it has been presented to General Assembly members. This is consistent with the current treatment of legislative staff-prepared analyses, synopses, fiscal notes, and local impact statements as public records.⁶

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	06-09-21

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⁴ R.C. 103.147(C).

⁵ R.C. 103.147(D) and (E).

⁶ R.C. 101.30(C).