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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 607
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 607's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Criminal Justice

Primary Sponsors: Reps. LaRe and Swearingen

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill's expansion in the considerations that must be taken into account when setting bail to include all relevant information, including the risk to public safety, may increase the jail stay of certain accused persons. To the extent that more individuals are not granted bail, county, municipal, and regional jail facilities may experience an increase in costs related to longer stays in jail.

Detailed Analysis

Under current law, bail must be fixed with consideration of the seriousness of the offense charged, the previous criminal record of the defendant, and the probability of the defendant appearing at the trial of the case. The bill expands the factors that must be considered in setting bail to include all relevant information, including the risk to public safety.

To the extent that more individuals are not granted bail, county, municipal, and regional jail facilities may experience an increase in costs related to longer stays in jail. The bill's expansion of bail considerations may result in some accused persons having a longer jail stay than otherwise might have been the case under current law and practice, and presumably produces a marginal increase in jail expenditures.

The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) reported that the average cost of an inmate in Ohio's jails was \$73.99 in 2020, per bed per day for full-service jails and \$73.98 per day, for 12-day facilities. DRC reports that the daily statewide full-service jail population ranged from 19,783 in 2019 to 13,013 in 2020 with 63% to 69% of those inmates awaiting trial in 2020,

and a daily statewide 12-day facility population ranging from 167 in 2019 and 77 in 2020, with 83% to 90% of those inmates awaiting trial in 2020.¹

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¹ Data was collected on June 30, 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to DRC, during this time period, Ohio jails had dramatically reduced their populations.