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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 160  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 160's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Reported by House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. O'Brien

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

Ryan Sherrock, Economist

### Highlights

- The bill requires certain entities to inform a veteran, spouse, or surviving spouse, or the veteran's representative about available benefits and the organizations that are available for assistance in applying for these benefits. In addition, the Medicaid Director is required to provide veterans who submit Medicaid applications with specified information. There may be minimal costs to applicable state or local government entities to provide this information.
- The bill requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to provide to a county veterans service office or to a General Assembly member, upon request, the names and addresses of veterans, active duty members, or reservists issued a driver's or commercial driver's license or state identification card. There could be minimal costs to provide this information.

### Detailed Analysis

The bill requires certain entities to inform a veteran or the spouse, surviving spouse, or representative of the veteran about health care or financial benefits that are available through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and information about congressionally chartered veteran's service organizations or the county veterans service office that can assist with investigating and applying for benefits through the Department. The bill requires this information to be provided to a veteran, spouse, surviving spouse, or representative of the veteran in certain situations. In addition, the bill also requires the Medicaid Director to provide to a veteran who has submitted an application for the Medicaid Program information about the county veterans service office that can assist with investigating and applying for benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. State or local government entities that are required to provide the abovementioned information, including the Ohio Department of Medicaid, could realize a

minimal increase in administrative costs. However, it is possible that some of these entities may currently provide at least some of this information in certain situations.

Additionally, the bill requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to provide to a county veterans service office or to a member of the General Assembly, upon request, the names and addresses of individuals for whom the BMV has issued a driver's license, commercial driver's license, or state identification card that indicates that the licensee or cardholder is a veteran, active duty, or reservist of the armed forces of the United States. The bill specifies that this information can only be used to provide notification about benefits or congressionally chartered or county veterans service organizations available to them. The BMV may realize a minimal increase in administrative costs to provide the requested information depending on the number of such requests. If a county veterans service office requests information, there could be some minimal administrative costs to obtain the information (e.g., filling out a memorandum of understanding with the BMV). There may also be costs for any actions taken by the office or General Assembly to alert veterans about benefits, etc. (e.g., mailing information to veterans).

The bill's provisions may also result in some indirect impacts. For instance, county veterans service offices might need to process additional benefit applications if this provision leads to more individuals seeking out their assistance. Additionally, this provision could reduce some state or local program costs if individuals receive federal services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and these services pay a portion of the individual's care.