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H.B. 613
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 613's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Ginter

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

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Highlights

- Beginning on the bill's effective date, the East Liverpool Municipal Court will be abolished. All causes, executions, and other proceedings pending in the East Liverpool Municipal Court will be transferred to and proceed in the Columbiana County Municipal Court. No additional judgeships will be created in the Columbiana County Municipal Court.
- The net elimination of one full-time municipal court judgeship will reduce the amount of state GRF and the local share of funding annually to cover judicial compensation-related costs and court operating costs. The exact amount of this expenditure reduction is dependent on the bill's effective date.
- The bill will result in a loss of court-generated revenue (i.e., filing fees, costs and fines) to the city of East Liverpool. The net effect of the loss will be offset by savings created by no longer supporting a standalone municipal court.
- The bill will result in an increase in the volume of cases in the Columbiana County Municipal Court. The bill will result in a revenue gain to Columbiana County in court-generated revenue (i.e., costs, fees, and fines), that may in part, offset any increase in workload-related expenses.
- The bill's abolishment of the East Liverpool Municipal Court will create an increase in costs to some local governmental entities that currently utilize the East Liverpool Municipal Court, mostly in terms of travel costs and staff time.

Detailed Analysis

East Liverpool Municipal Court

Beginning on the bill's effective date, the East Liverpool Municipal Court will be abolished. All causes, executions, and other proceedings pending in the East Liverpool Municipal Court on the bill's effective date will be transferred to and proceed in the Columbiana County Municipal Court. No additional judgeships will be created in the Columbiana County Municipal Court.

Judicial compensation-related cost savings

The bill will eliminate the full-time municipal court judgeship serving the East Liverpool Municipal Court, saving the state of Ohio and local jurisdictions their share of various judgeship compensation/benefits and payroll-related expenses. Judicial salaries are set in statute. For calendar year 2023, the salary for a full-time municipal court judge will be \$148,775, with \$61,750 being covered by the local jurisdiction and the remainder by the state (\$87,024). Certain payroll expenses and benefits are also split between the locals and the state. In addition to these salary savings, to the extent that current staff are supported by the city of East Liverpool and eliminated, further cost savings could be experienced. At this time, it is unclear what decisions will be made related to these staff positions.

Court revenue loss

As a result of the abolishment of the East Liverpool Municipal Court, the city of East Liverpool will lose court-generated court cost, fee, and fine revenue. This revenue will instead be collected by Columbiana County Municipal Court. The exact amount of revenue that would effectively shift is uncertain, as some manner of fine revenue would likely be remitted back to the city of East Liverpool if cases originated from that jurisdiction. The net effect of the loss will be offset by savings created by no longer supporting a standalone municipal court, either in whole or in part.

Columbiana County Municipal Court

The bill may result in a minimal increase in the volume of cases in the Columbiana County Municipal Court (increase in workload-related expenses) from the absorption of the East Liverpool Municipal Court. Columbiana County will experience a revenue increase, as certain court-generated costs, fees, and fines previously generated by the East Liverpool Municipal Court will be credited to the Columbiana County Municipal Court.

According to an analysis of caseload statistics conducted by the Ohio Supreme Court, the bill's abolishment of the East Liverpool Municipal Court will not create a burdensome increase to the workload for the Columbiana County Municipal Court, with its two full-time judges, and existing staff and resources will be sufficient. According to representatives of the Columbiana County Municipal Court, it is unlikely they would need to hire additional staff to process the increased workload.

Local governmental agencies currently utilizing the East Liverpool Municipal Court

The bill's abolishment of the East Liverpool Municipal Court will create an increase in costs to certain local governmental entities that currently utilize the court's services, specifically local township police departments that file criminal and traffic violations in the East Liverpool

Municipal Court. It has been stated that these agencies will now need to file and appear in the Columbiana County Municipal Court which is located in Lisbon, Ohio. The East Liverpool Municipal Court's territorial jurisdiction consists of the city of East Liverpool, Liverpool Township, and St. Clair Township. Columbiana County Municipal Court's current territorial jurisdiction consists of the remaining territory of Columbiana County not subject to the jurisdiction of East Liverpool Municipal Court.

According to Liverpool Township, presently, township officers receive two hours pay for any local East Liverpool Municipal Court appearances. Pursuant to the township's policy, officers receive four hours of pay for any court appearance outside of the East Liverpool Municipal Court. According to the Liverpool Township, costs for officer's overtime pay would double. To the degree that officers will now need to add additional hours and mileage to file charges in the Columbiana County Municipal Court, an increase in costs can be expected.