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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 648  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 648's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Pavliga

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### Highlights

- The bill will result in a minimal increase in the volume of cases in the Division of Domestic Relations of the Portage County Court of Common Pleas (increase in workload-related expenses and revenues in the form of court costs, and fees) and a decrease in the volume of cases in the Juvenile Division of the Portage County Court of Common Pleas (decrease in workload-related expenses and revenues in the form of court costs, and fees), the net fiscal effect being minimal.

### Detailed Analysis

The bill generally expands the jurisdiction of the Division of Domestic Relations of the Portage County Court of Common Pleas to include, among others, proceedings involving parentage, child support, allocation of parental rights and responsibilities, and relief from paternity determinations.

The bill will result in a minimal increase in the volume of cases in the Division of Domestic Relations of the Portage County Court of Common Pleas (increase in workload-related expenses and revenues in the form of court costs, and fees) and a decrease in the volume of cases in the Juvenile Division of the Portage County Court of Common Pleas (decrease in workload-related expenses and revenues in the form of court costs, and fees). At this time, the court costs associated with the specified cases are remitted to the Juvenile Court Clerk of Courts. After the transfer, the costs will be remitted to the Portage County Clerk of Courts.

Overall caseloads for the Portage County Court of Common Pleas as a whole will generally be unaffected, with the bill's primary impact being limited to the shifting of cases within the divisions of the common pleas court, an entity of the county. According to the Portage County Clerk of Courts, an influx of 500 cases to the Division of Domestic Relations are anticipated under the bill. The Portage County Department of Budget and Financial Management anticipates that

additional employees, one magistrate and two other staff, may be requested to process the additional cases. This approval would need to come from the Portage County Board of Commissioners. It is presumed that there may be a corresponding staff reduction in the Juvenile Division, but is unknown at the time of this writing. The Portage County Board of Commissioners has committed to financially supporting increased needs of the Portage County Domestic Relations Court resulting from the transfer of cases. As both courts are divisions of the Portage County Court of Common Pleas, it is unlikely the county will experience more than a minimal fiscal impact in terms of costs and revenue under the bill.