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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 241
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 241's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Homeland Security

Primary Sponsors: Reps. J. Miller and K. Miller

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- If a municipal police department chooses to conduct a training school for prospective officers, as authorized by the bill, they will incur various supply, equipment, and program administration costs. Such costs would differ from municipality to municipality. This provision is permissive.
- Local police departments may experience some savings by forgoing the administration of a civil service examination.

Detailed Analysis

Municipal police department training schools

The bill allows municipal police chiefs to conduct training schools for prospective law enforcement officers. These training school programs must align with Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) standards and offer equivalent qualification.¹ Police departments that choose to conduct a training school will incur permissive costs related to supplies, equipment, and program administration, including staffing costs. Such costs would differ from municipality to municipality. The bill also allows participating departments to compensate perspective officers during the period of training with a “reasonable salary,” which is undefined by the bill.

¹ OPOTA’s basic training curriculum requires a minimum of 740 hours of training. Applicants must pass a criminal background check, physical fitness test, and drug screening to qualify for an academy. To become eligible to be certified, applicants must pass the physical fitness skill assessment and a written examination.

The bill will have no discernible impact on peace officer training certification work of the Ohio Peace Office Training Commission (OPOTC).

Civil service examinations

Local police departments may see some savings by forgoing the administration of a civil service examination as allowed by the bill. Specifically, the bill allows the Director of Administrative Services (DAS) to suspend, under certain circumstances, the requirement to conduct a civil service examination to fill a vacant classified civil service position in a police department. This exemption does not apply to vacant classified civil service positions that must be filled by promotion. The Director would need to verify that competition is impracticable and the position can best be filled by a person who (1) holds a specialized certification, (2) possesses peculiar and exceptional qualifications, or (3) has completed a police cadet training program through the police department. Local police departments would need to submit satisfactory evidence to the Director to receive a suspension of the requirement. Current law allows the DAS Director to suspend the requirement that an examination be conducted to fill a position where peculiar and exceptional qualifications of a scientific, managerial, professional, or educational character are required. Therefore, DAS could likely absorb the responsibility added under the bill into an existing program of review. The demand for civil service examination suspension requests to fill police department vacancies is unknown.