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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 379
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 379's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Lorenz and Carruthers

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill requires a road crew service member who finds a deceased dog or cat when performing duties to use a microchip scanning device prior to disposal. Applicable state and local entities responsible for maintaining a road would incur costs for acquiring microchip scanners, and potential costs for storing the animal as required under the bill.
- Pet microchip scanners can vary in price from as low as \$30 to as high as \$300.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires a road service crew member who discovers a deceased dog or cat, when performing duties on a public road or public right of way, to use an employer-furnished microchip scanning device on the animal prior to its disposal. Consequently, the Department of Transportation (ODOT) and applicable political subdivisions would incur costs for the acquisition of pet microchip scanners. These costs would ultimately depend on the cost of the scanner, and the number of scanners acquired by each entity. Presumably, local entities would only purchase a few of these devices. However, ODOT would likely need to purchase a larger number of devices for use in each of the agency's 12 districts. Prices for these devices range from as low as \$30 up to approximately \$300.¹ Presumably, the public entities buying these scanners would purchase models with the necessary functionality at the lower end of this range.

Once an animal has been scanned, if the road service crew member determines contact information exists for the deceased dog or cat, the road service employer, or applicable public

¹ Internet search for microchip scanners conducted April 26, 2024, at [amazon.com/microchip-scanner/s?k=microchip+scanner](https://www.amazon.com/microchip-scanner/s?k=microchip+scanner).

entity, must make a reasonable effort to contact the owner of the animal. The requirement differs for workers of private road service employers who find dead animals at a work site. They must deliver the dead cat or dog to the public entity with jurisdiction over the roadway. After contacting the owner, the applicable public body must hold the deceased dog or cat in a sanitary manner for 24 hours to provide the owner with an opportunity to retrieve their cat or dog. The bill does not specify or define what a “sanitary manner” is. Depending on the arrangements, some public road service and maintenance facilities could incur costs to provide sanitary storage for any dead animals they must hold.