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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 396
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 396's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House General Government

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Willis

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Jared Cape, Budget Analyst

Highlights

- The bill expands the pool of participants and volunteer application assistants for the Address Confidentiality Program managed by the Secretary of State (SOS), commonly referred to as the Safe at Home Program. These changes are anticipated to increase administrative costs to the Secretary of State.

Detailed Analysis

The bill makes changes to the Address Confidentiality Program managed by the Secretary of State (SOS) and commonly referred to as the Safe at Home Program. Specifically, it expands the list of crimes that make a victim and the victim's household members eligible to participate in the Address Confidentiality Program to include (1) any crime that caused serious physical harm or death to the victim and (2) any crime in which the victim was threatened with a deadly weapon. Additionally, it expands the eligible pool of volunteers that may be trained by the SOS to be an application assistant, a person who has received training and certification from the SOS to facilitate enrollment in the Safe at Home Program.

Overall, these changes could increase costs for the Secretary of State. The total cost will depend on the number of newly eligible individuals who apply to participate in the Safe at Home Program. These costs are paid from the Address Confidentiality Fund (Fund 5SN0), which consists of court-imposed fines revenue of between \$70 and \$500 for specified felony and misdemeanor offenses and annual cash transfers of up to \$400,000 per fiscal year from the Business Services Fund (Fund 5990). In FY 2025, the SOS spent almost \$185,000 to operate the program. So far in FY 2026, as of the end of January 2026, the SOS has incurred expenses of approximately \$88,000 to administer the program. The current cash balance of the fund is just under \$395,000.