OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

S.B. 175
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for S.B. 175's Bill Analysis

Version: As Reported by Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance and Technology

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Patton

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The costs for the Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section to investigate and enforce violations of the bill will depend on the number of complaints filed/reported, investigations performed, and enforcement actions taken. To some degree, these costs may be offset by the collection of civil penalties credited to the Consumer Protection Enforcement Fund (Fund 6310).
- Any increase in the annual operating costs of courts of common pleas to adjudicate additional civil actions will be no more than minimal and absorbed by utilizing existing staff and resources.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires, beginning January 1, 2027, the collection of age bracket data to enable application developers to provide age-appropriate content for minor users. To facilitate this, the bill establishes various duties for developers and operating system providers related to age determination and data usage. These duties, along with relevant definitions, are detailed in the LSC bill analysis. The bill provides for civil penalties in an Attorney General action.

Fiscal effects

The Attorney General has the exclusive right to enforce the provisions of the bill. The bill specifies that there is no private cause of action. The Attorney General must file a civil action against a person who fails to comply, in the county where the violation occurred or in Franklin County if the location is unknown, to seek injunctive relief and civil penalties of up to $2,500 per affected child for negligent violations and up to $7,500 per affected child for purposeful violations. Any related enforcement costs for the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section will be offset, to some degree, by the collection of civil penalties credited to the

Consumer Protection Enforcement Fund (Fund 6310). The amount and timing of enforcement costs will depend on the compliance of the regulated entities, the number of complaints reported and investigations conducted, and the outcomes of any civil actions brought.

While the number of new civil actions that may result from the bill is uncertain, it is not expected to be significant for any single jurisdiction. The effect on the daily operations and related operating expenses of the courts of common pleas will depend on the frequency with which such actions are filed and the legal complexity of the matters involved, but likely to be absorbed by existing staff and resources.

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