OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

S.B. 398
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for S.B. 398's Bill Analysis

Version: As Reported by Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Blackshear and Wilson

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill would create minimal additional administrative and operating costs for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Parks and Watercraft stemming from the creation and administration of an Adopt a Trail Program.
- These costs would likely be paid from the State Park Fund (Fund 5120), which supports Division operations.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Parks and Watercraft to establish and oversee an Adopt a Trail Program and would result in minimal new administrative costs for the Division. Under the bill, the Division must review volunteer applications, approve participation, and enter written agreements with volunteer groups to assist in maintaining and enhancing trails on state-owned land. These responsibilities slightly expand existing administrative duties related to trail management, but the workload is likely to be small enough to be absorbed with current staff resources.

The bill also requires the Division Chief to adopt rules for the operation of the program. While rulemaking introduces a one-time administrative cost, it is expected to be modest given the scope of the program and the Division's ongoing regulatory responsibilities. In addition, the bill permits the Division to provide gloves, trash bags, and safety training to volunteers and to install signs recognizing participating groups. These are discretionary activities and would generate only minor additional expenses should the Division choose to provide materials or install signs.

The bill prohibits volunteers from performing tasks that would reduce employee hours or conflict with collective bargaining agreements. As a result, volunteer efforts would supplement

rather than replace the Division's maintenance work, and the bill would ultimately not generate measurable savings. Overall, any minimal additional costs arising from program administration, coordination, or materials would likely be supported by the State Park Fund (Fund 5120).