



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Jean J. Botomogno

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 132 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: In House Government Accountability and Oversight

Sponsor: Reps. Dever and McColley

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Regulation of fantasy contests

State and Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill grants the Ohio Casino Control Commission the authority to regulate "fantasy contests."
- A fantasy contest operator must pay a nonrefundable license fee set by the Commission, not to exceed \$10,000 per year. The bill does not specify a fund into which license fee revenue is to be deposited. LSC assumes that fee revenue will be deposited in the Casino Control Commission Fund (Fund 5HS0) from which all expenses for the proposed regulation will be paid.
- The bill is likely to have no local fiscal effect.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill grants the Ohio Casino Control Commission the authority to investigate, license, penalize, and regulate anyone conducting or participating in a "fantasy contest" in Ohio. The bill also directs the Commission to adopt rules governing the operation of a fantasy contest. "Fantasy contests" are defined as simulated games or contests a person must pay an entry fee to enter, in which: (1) the value of all prizes and awards are established and made known ahead of the contest, (2) all winning outcomes are based on the relative skill and knowledge of the players, as determined by accumulated statistical results of the performance of a roster of athletes in actual sporting events, and (3) winning outcomes are not based on randomized or historical events, or on the score or performance of any individual athlete, single team, or combination of teams in an actual sporting event. Fantasy contests offered according to the bill and the rules subsequently adopted by the Commission are exempted from the Gambling Law (which does not currently directly address fantasy contests). The bill imposes a number of requirements on fantasy contest operators that have no direct fiscal effect, other than costs for the Commission to enforce the requirements. Details on those requirements are available in the LSC's Bill Analysis.

Under the bill, no one can offer a fantasy contest in Ohio without first obtaining a license from the Casino Control Commission. However, the bill specifies that a person operating a pool not conducted for profit (like an office sports pool in which all the money collected from the players in the contest is paid as prize money) is not a fantasy contest operator. To obtain or renew a license, a fantasy contest operator must pay a nonrefundable license fee set by the Commission, not to exceed \$10,000 for a one-year license, or \$30,000 for a three-year license. The bill does not specify a fund into which license fee revenue is to be deposited; LSC assumes the license fee revenue will accrue to the Casino Control Commission Fund (Fund 5HS0), a non-GRF fund, from which all expenses to regulate fantasy contests will be paid. At this time, no information is available on the potential costs the Commission would incur to regulate fantasy contests. The bill is likely to have no local fiscal effect.

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