



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Tom Middleton

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 112 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sen. Schiavoni

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Establishes the Green Infrastructure Fund under the Public Works Commission

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill establishes the Green Infrastructure Fund under the budget of the Public Works Commission (PWC) to offer grant subsidies and other assistance to implement large-scale green infrastructure improvement projects on public land.
- The Green Infrastructure Fund (Fund 5TP0) is capitalized via a \$10 million transfer from the GRF in each of FY 2018 and FY 2019. PWC receives corresponding appropriations of \$10 million per fiscal year under Fund 5TP0 line item 150603, Green Infrastructure Projects, to issue awards to qualifying green infrastructure projects.
- Any administrative costs to PWC in operating the program would likely be paid out of Fund 5TP0.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill establishes the Green Infrastructure Fund to be used by PWC to provide financial, technical, and administrative assistance for the implementation of large-scale green infrastructure improvement projects on public land. The bill specifies that "large-scale green infrastructure improvement projects" shall be largely self-sustaining and require minimal future maintenance, and may include such projects as (1) dam removal, (2) natural stream channel and floodplain restoration, (3) storm water retention, (4) wetland restoration, (5) green streets, (6) parking lots, (7) roofs, (8) large-scale urban reforestation, and (9) rainwater harvesting. Presumably other types of projects could also qualify for assistance, pending rules adopted by PWC to oversee the program. The rules must outline the application procedures, the criteria for evaluating projects, and other pertinent grant requirements. Finally, the bill requires the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to assist the Director of PWC in evaluating grant agreements before any grant awards are made.

Overall, PWC might incur some new administrative costs for its staff to design and operate the program. The amount of costs would mostly depend on the rules PWC adopts to govern the program. If the Program were to function in a way that is similar to the existing Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program, whereby projects are selected regionally by one of 19 local "Natural Resources Assistance Councils," then the administrative costs to PWC would likely be minimal. Any costs would presumably be paid out of the Green Infrastructure Fund (Fund 5TP0). In addition, the Ohio EPA might also incur some small cost to help evaluate grant agreements as required under the bill. To fund the initiative, the Green Infrastructure Fund (Fund 5TP0) is capitalized via a \$10 million transfer from the GRF in each of FY 2018 and FY 2019. PWC receives corresponding appropriations of \$10 million per fiscal year to support projects over the biennium, through Fund 5TP0 appropriation item 150603, Green Infrastructure Projects.

SB0112IN.docx/th