



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Tom Wert

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 236 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sen. Huffman

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Creates the Affected Mine Commission

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may incur minimal costs to pay fixed per diem rates to members of the Affected Mine Commission which is created by the bill. Based on rates paid to other similar commissions housed under DNR, members of the Affected Mine Commission would likely receive \$18.75 per hour for actual hours spent performing Commission duties. DNR may also incur costs to reimburse actual travel, hotel, and other expenses incurred by members of the Commission in carrying out their duties. Under the bill, the Commission would consist of five members, two members who are also members of the existing Reclamation Commission, two members who are also members of the Oil and Gas Commission, and one member who owns and operates a farm or is a retired farmer. The bill assigns the Commission with responsibility for hearing appeals related to coal mines affected by a proposed oil and gas operation. Under current law, these appeals are adjudicated by the Reclamation Commission. Between 2012 and 2016, fewer than ten such appeals have been adjudicated by the Reclamation Commission each year.

Under the bill, parties adversely affected by an order of the Affected Mine Commission may appeal the order to the Court of Common Pleas of Franklin County. As a result, there could be an increase in costs to the court for processing additional cases. However, if any cases were appealed to the court, the number would likely be very small. Any increase in costs to the court therefore would likely be negligible.

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