



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Terry Steele

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

**Bill:** S.J.R. 5 of the 132nd G.A.

**Status:** As Reported by Senate Government Oversight & Reform

**Sponsor:** Sen. Huffman

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Subject:** Proposes revisions to the process for congressional redistricting

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### State Fiscal Highlights

- The resolution proposes to revise the method by which maps are drawn during the congressional redistricting process. If approved by the General Assembly, the proposal would be placed on the May 8, 2018 statewide ballot.
- The Secretary of State would incur ballot advertising costs for ensuring that ballot issue language, issue explanations, and proponent and opponent positions for ballot issues are published in print media across the state. The Secretary of State is reimbursed for these costs via cash transfers approved by the Controlling Board.

### Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The resolution proposes an amendment to the Ohio Constitution to establish standards and procedures for congressional redistricting to be placed on the May 8, 2018 ballot. The state costs related to submitting this proposal to voters through a statewide ballot issue, as well as the costs that the Ohio Redistricting Commission might incur for redrawing congressional districts, are described below.

#### Ballot advertising costs

The Secretary of State is responsible for contracting with print media sources to publish ballot language, explanations, and proponent and opponent positions on statewide ballot issues. Once these expenses are incurred, the Secretary of State submits a Controlling Board request for reimbursement from the GRF to the Statewide Ballot Advertising Fund (Fund 5FH0). Under the Revised Code, any such cash transfers may be requested from and approved by the Controlling Board before the advertising is placed to allow for timely publication. The costs for publishing this information largely depends on the length of the ballot issue, the explanation, and the arguments for and against the ballot issue. As a guideline, the Secretary of State has paid advertising costs of just over \$492,000 for publishing the content and descriptions of Issue 1 (crime victims' rights) and Issue 2 (state prescription drug cost control) that appeared on the statewide November 2017 ballot.

## **Redistricting costs**

Under the Ohio Constitution, the General Assembly is required to provide funding for the process of redistricting. This funding is provided under GRF appropriation item 035407, Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, within the budget of the Legislative Service Commission. For FY 2018, this item's total appropriation is \$3.2 million. H.B. 49, the main operating budget act for the FY 2018-FY 2019 biennium, allows for any unspent money to be carried forward into FY 2019. Among the costs related to the redistricting process are those for GIS mapping software applications, consulting services, and other related expenses. In addition to costs that the state incurs for redistricting, the 88 county boards of elections could incur some additional costs for implementing a new redistricting plan. For boards of elections, the process of redistricting typically involves reorganizing precincts and making other related updates.

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