



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Maggie Wolniewicz

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 207 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Patton

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

Subject: Traffic law photo-monitoring device use by a local authority that does not operate either a fire department or an emergency medical services organization

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state.
- The villages of Linndale (Cuyahoga County) and Brice (Franklin County) will annually lose up to an estimated \$1.4 million and \$390,000 or more, respectively, as a result of losing their ability to collect civil fine revenue associated with a speeding violation detected by a photo-monitoring device.
- The villages of Rutland (Meigs County) and New Miami (Butler County) will lose their ability to collect civil fine revenue associated with a speeding violation detected by a photo-monitoring device. The amount of revenue that will be lost annually for each village is uncertain, but is likely to be significant in the context of each village's overall budget.
- Presumably, in order to adjust to this revenue loss, the four villages noted in the preceding dot points will need to reduce expenditures, find a revenue replacement, or implement some mix of both expenditure reductions and replacement revenue.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill prohibits a municipal corporation or township that does not operate either a fire department or an emergency medical services organization from utilizing traffic law photo-monitoring devices. The bill specifically states that a "fire department" does not include a volunteer fire department. The bill will have no impact on the expenditures or revenues of the state of Ohio, but will reduce the civil fine revenue generated for certain local governments using such devices.

Local authorities using traffic law photo-monitoring devices

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, there are 16 local authorities in Ohio that utilize photo-monitoring devices to enforce traffic signal light and/or speed limit violations. The following table lists each local authority, the county in which it is located, its population, the type of cameras used, and whether it operates its own fire department or emergency medical services organization.

Ohio Local Authorities Utilizing Traffic Law Photo-Monitoring Devices, May 2017*			
Local Authority (County)	Population**	Type of Cameras Used	Fire Department or EMS Organization
City of Toledo (Lucas)	279,789	Red light/Speed	Yes
City of Akron (Summit)	197,542	Speed	Yes
City of Dayton (Montgomery)	140,599	Red light/Speed	Yes
City of Parma (Cuyahoga)	79,937	Speed	Yes
City of Youngstown (Mahoning)	64,628	Speed	Yes
City of Hamilton (Butler)	62,407	Speed	Yes
City of Trotwood (Montgomery)	24,096	Speed	Yes
Liberty Township (Trumbull)	21,579	Speed	Yes
City of East Cleveland (Cuyahoga)	17,344	Red light/Speed	Yes
Hubbard Township (Trumbull)	13,118	Speed	Volunteer
City of Girard (Trumbull)	9,599	Speed	Yes
Village of New Miami (Butler)	2,316	Speed	Volunteer
Village of Newburgh Heights (Cuyahoga)	2,096	Speed	Yes
Village of Rutland (Meigs)	381	Speed	Volunteer
Village of Linndale (Cuyahoga)	176	Speed	No
Village of Brice (Franklin)	121	Speed	No

*Source: Insurance Institute of Highway Safety

**Reflects the United States Census Bureau estimate for July 1, 2015

Local authorities impacted by H.B. 207

As seen in the table, there are five local authorities (the villages of Brice, Linndale, New Miami, and Rutland, and Hubbard Township) that do not operate their own fire department or their own emergency medical services organization. As such, the bill would prohibit the villages of Brice, Linndale, New Miami, and Rutland, and Hubbard Township from using the speed cameras that are currently in place. Although the bill will not result in any additional costs for these five local authorities, it will likely

result in a significant loss of revenue. The bill's impact on each of these five local authorities is described in further detail below.

Presumably, in order to adjust to this revenue loss, these local authorities will likely have to reduce expenditures, utilize alternative revenue streams, or implement some mix of both expenditure reductions and revenue replacement.

Villages of Brice and Linndale

While data generally is not readily available regarding the number of speed camera citations issued or the amount of fine revenue generated by local authorities, estimates from various newspapers indicate that the village of Linndale issues around 150 citations per week, or 7,800 per year (150 x 52 weeks), and that the village of Brice issues around 50 citations per day, or 18,250 per year (50 x 365 days). The fine imposed for a speed camera violation varies somewhat by local authority, with a violation in the village of Linndale costing \$100 and a violation in the village of Brice costing \$125. At these rates, the villages of Linndale and Brice are generating around \$780,000 (7,800 x \$100) and \$2,281,250 (18,250 x \$125), respectively, per year.

Local authorities generally enter into a contract with a private company to provide the equipment and monitoring necessary to operate the devices. As part of that contract, the local authority generally agrees to give a percentage of the revenue generated using those devices to the private company. While the percentage of revenue given to a private company may vary based on the company and the agreement, the village of Linndale retains 60% of the total fine revenue generated and the village of Brice retains 50%. Using the previously determined revenue estimates for the villages of Linndale and Brice, the amount of annual revenue that each village would lose as a result of no longer being able to issue citations using speed cameras would be around \$1,368,750 ($\$2,281,250 \times 0.6$) and \$390,000 ($\$780,000 \times 0.5$), respectively.

Village of Rutland

The village of Rutland's speed camera program took effect on March 6, 2017, beginning with a 30-day warning period. The village imposes a fine starting at \$115 for speed camera violations. The number of citations issued or amount of revenue generated since April 5, 2017, when the warning period ended, is not readily available. Given the program's recent effective date, the amount of fine revenue that the village would lose annually if it were no longer able to issue speed camera citations is uncertain. However, based on the amount of fine revenue generated by the villages of Brice and Linndale, that amount has the potential to be significant in the context of the village's overall budget.

Village of New Miami

The village of New Miami's speed camera program took effect on February 1, 2016. The village imposes a fine of \$95 for speed camera violations and retains 65% of the fine revenue generated. The number of citations issued is uncertain, but estimates from the Dayton Daily News suggest that the village generated \$424,196 in fine revenue

from February 1, 2016 through November 30, 2016. It is unclear as to whether this is the total amount generated or the amount that the village retained. Whether the village retained an average of around \$42,420 per month ($\$424,196/10$ months) or 65% of that amount ($\$27,573$), the amount of revenue that the village would lose if it were no longer able to issue speed camera citations is likely to be significant.

Hubbard Township

Hubbard Township, although listed by the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety as having a current speed camera program, appears to have suspended its program due to ongoing court cases and concerns over the legality of using the cameras. As long as the township does not reinstate the program before the bill is enacted, the bill will have no direct fiscal effect on the township.

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