



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 484 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Brenner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Authorizes health districts to use credit cards

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- Local courts may realize an increase in costs related to cases of misuse of credit cards; however, these costs may be partially offset by fines or court costs imposed on offenders. Total costs would depend on the number of violations.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill permits a board of health of a city or general health district to authorize an officer or employee to use a district credit card to pay for work-related expenses. The bill specifies that the debt incurred as a result of the use of a credit card is to be paid from moneys appropriated by the board of health for such expenses. The bill also specifies that the officer or employee is liable personally and through official bonds. In addition, a card user who suspects the loss, theft, or unauthorized use of a card must notify the board immediately in writing. The bill states that the card user may be liable for up to \$50 of unauthorized charges incurred before the board receives the written notice.

Under the bill, the prosecuting attorney of the county where the board of health is located is to recover the amount of any unauthorized expenses incurred by the officer or employee by civil action in the court of appropriate jurisdiction. The bill specifies that a card user who misuses a card with purpose to defraud may be guilty of a criminal offense ranging from a first degree misdemeanor to third degree felony, based on the amount of purchases.

Fiscal impact

The bill would allow employees to use a district credit card rather than personal finances to pay for work-related expenses. According to the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, employees of local health districts are currently reimbursed for these expenses. As a result, there should be no additional costs incurred as a result of the bill since boards would pay credit card statements instead of reimbursing employees for costs.

Local courts may realize an increase in court costs related to cases of misuse of funds; however, these costs may be partially offset by fines or court costs imposed on any offenders. There could also be incarceration costs depending on the level of the offense. Any court or incarceration costs would depend on the number of violations.

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