



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Robert Meeker

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 724 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Pelanda

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Abusive civil action plaintiffs

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- There may be a no more than minimal annual savings effect on the operations of common pleas, municipal, and county courts.
- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill creates a process through which a plaintiff in a civil action may be designated an abusive civil plaintiff and an action may be declared an abusive civil action. The bill requires a court to: (1) hold a hearing to determine if an action is an abusive civil action when alleged by a defendant or of the court's own decision, (2) dismiss an action if it is determined at hearing that it is an abusive civil action, and (3) to impose certain restrictions on any subsequent actions filed by the plaintiff against the same defendant for up to between four and six years. In such subsequent potential civil actions, an abusive civil action plaintiff may seek permission from the court to file and the court is required to dismiss such an action filed when permission has not been sought and granted.

Given the limited definition of who may qualify as an abusive civil action plaintiff, the bill's provisions are likely to only apply to an extremely small number of actions in the geographic jurisdiction of any given common pleas, municipal, or county court. Within that subset of civil actions, the bill will likely create a small number of additional hearings to determine the validity of claims, and a subsequent relatively small reduction in a court's overall annual workload if cases are forestalled due to a plaintiff's designation as an abusive civil action plaintiff. The net fiscal effect of these factors, although difficult to quantify in dollars and cents, is likely to be a minimal at most annual savings effect on common pleas, municipal, and county courts generally.