



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 499
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 499's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Kelly and Lang

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Shannon Pleiman, Senior Budget Analyst

Highlights

- If a county auditor implements a motor fuel testing quality program, that office will incur costs to purchase testing supplies or contract with another county to use that county's testing equipment and fuel inspector.
- All civil penalties collected from retail dealers who violate the program's standards are to be deposited into the applicable county general fund.
- The Department of Agriculture is responsible for compiling data received from county fuel inspectors and make the data accessible on its website. This could minimally increase administrative costs for the Department's Division of Weights and Measures. The Division is funded by GRF line item 700412, Weights and Measures, and Fund 5H20 line item 700608, Metrology Lab and Scale Certification.

Detailed Analysis

County governments

The bill allows a county auditor to implement a motor fuel quality testing program absent a statewide motor fuel program that would have to be implemented and funded by the Department of Agriculture. If counties were to establish a motor fuel quality testing program, they will incur costs to purchase testing supplies or contract with another county to use that county's testing equipment and fuel inspector. Under the program, a fuel inspector may test motor fuel quality for octane level, sediment, and water in the fuel. The bill prohibits a fuel inspector from charging any inspection or registration fees to perform motor fuel quality testing.

Summit County is the only county in Ohio that has a motor fuel quality testing program. The program is overseen by the Weights and Measures Division within the Summit County

Fiscal Office. It conducts motor fuel quality testing in conjunction with other duties at gas stations similar to those carried out by all county auditor offices in Ohio. The table below shows the start-up costs of purchasing the equipment under Summit County's program. The amount of equipment that a county would need to start a motor fuel quality testing program will largely depend on how many inspectors in the county will conduct the testing. According to Summit County's budget for CY 2020, there are two inspectors in the Weights and Measures Division budgeted for this year.

Equipment Costs Under Summit County's Motor Fuel Quality Testing Program	
Equipment	Cost
Bacon Bomb (sample collector)	\$700
Scully Water Detector	\$295
Folding Measuring Dipstick	\$10
Sar-Gel Stick and Paste (12; 1 ounce tubes)	\$70
Turbidimeter Instrument	\$1,000
Zeltex Octane Analyzer	\$10,000
Total	\$12,075

Lastly, a retailer dealer who violates the program's standards is subject to a civil penalty under rules to be adopted by the Department of Agriculture or the county auditor if the Department does not adopt rules. Civil penalties collected are to be deposited into the applicable county general fund.

Department of Agriculture

The bill requires fuel inspectors to transmit data collected from motor fuel quality testing to the Department of Agriculture. The Department must compile the data, including dates, locations, and results received from fuel inspectors, and make the data accessible to the public via the Department of Agriculture's website. This could minimally increase administrative costs for the Department's Division of Weights and Measures. The Division is funded by GRF line item 700412, Weights and Measures, and Fund 5H20 line item 700608, Metrology Lab and Scale Certification.