



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 319 of the 129th G.A.](#) **Date:** September 14, 2011
Status: As Reported by House State Government & Elections **Sponsor:** Rep. Huffman

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Redraws congressional districts in Ohio

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill redraws U.S. congressional district lines in Ohio based on the 2010 decennial census. Because of the slow rate of population growth in Ohio compared to other states in the nation, the number of congressional districts in Ohio must be reduced from 18 to 16.
- The costs incurred for redrawing the congressional districts are paid primarily through GRF appropriation item 035407, Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, within the budget of the Legislative Service Commission. Thus far in FY 2012, expenditures from this line item have amounted to just under \$310,000.
- The Secretary of State's Office has also incurred some small expense for making district mapping software available to the public on the Office's web site. The cost of making this software available for public participation in the redistricting process has been approximately \$16,000, paid from GRF appropriation item 050321, Operating Expenses.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- County boards of elections will incur some new costs as a result of this redistricting process. The main cost will be for notifying voters of new districts and new polling locations as a result of congressional redistricting. These costs will vary according to the scope of changes to district boundaries in each county.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill establishes U.S. congressional district boundaries for the state based on the 2010 decennial census of Ohio. Based on this census data, the state of Ohio saw a reduction of two congressional seats, lowering the number of districts in Ohio from 18 to 16. The legislative process of redrawing these districts (and also for reapportioning General Assembly districts) is supported by GRF appropriation item 035407, Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, within the budget of the Legislative Service Commission. Total expenses for these purposes thus far in FY 2012 have amounted to \$309,699 primarily for GIS mapping software applications, consulting services, and other related expenses. In addition to these expenses, the Secretary of State's Office incurred costs of approximately \$16,000 to provide mapping software on its web site, allowing users to draw their own congressional district maps for consideration by the General Assembly. Funding for this mapping software was provided under GRF appropriation item 050321, Operating Expenses.

The 88 county boards of elections will also incur new costs once the new congressional districts are drawn. Most of the costs will be for mailing voters information about their new congressional districts and polling locations. Although many voters will remain in the same congressional district, there will be some cases where district lines are changed considerably from their present form. As a result, the costs that boards of elections will incur will vary by county.