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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

H.B. 158
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 158's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Brennan and D. Thomas

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

Kyuhan Choi, Economist

Highlights

- The bill promotes billing transparency by requiring residential utility bills to clearly itemize all riders, charges, taxes, and other costs with utility service provided by a gas, natural gas, waterworks, or electric light company. It may result in administrative costs for some utility providers to update their billing systems, but it is not expected to have a direct fiscal effect on the state.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires utility bills issued to residential customers by gas, natural gas, waterworks, or electric light companies to itemize various categories of charges, including distribution, generation, transmission, and supply costs; all separate riders and charges; and all applicable taxes and governmental fees. Each item must list the amount apportioned to the customer for the billing period. The bill also designates its provisions as the Consumer Utility Billing Transparency Act.

The bill may result in administrative costs for utility providers to modify billing systems to comply with the itemization requirements. These costs would likely vary by provider, depending on factors such as company size and whether the provider is regulated by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). PUCO-regulated utilities have publicly available rate and rider information and may already have a billing infrastructure that can accommodate detailed itemized charges, potentially reducing implementation costs. In contrast, smaller utility providers or those operated by local governments (municipal electric utilities or nonprofit water cooperatives) that are not regulated by PUCO may face greater implementation challenges if their billing infrastructure is limited. While the specific fiscal impact is uncertain, some of these providers may incur additional costs to comply with the bill's requirements. The bill is not expected to have a direct fiscal effect on the state.