



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 173
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 173's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. D. Thomas

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Kyuhan Choi, Economist

Highlights

- The bill provides the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) with the option to require biennial registration for behind-the-meter utility service providers, with potential administrative costs offset by registration fees, while having minimal fiscal impact on local governments.

Detailed Analysis

The bill exempts providers of behind-the-meter utility services from being classified as public utilities, allowing them to operate without full regulatory oversight by PUCO. However, the bill grants PUCO the authority to decide whether to require providers to register every two years and to enforce specific disclosure and complaint-handling rules. Additionally, the bill limits providers reselling electricity to tenants to charge no more than the applicable residential customer standard service offer. It also establishes penalties of up to \$100 for each violation of the bill not cured in a timely manner and that is to be collected by the Attorney General when directed by PUCO.

Under the bill, PUCO will have the option to implement a registration system, which could lead to administrative costs for creating and managing the process, depending on whether it chooses to require registration. If PUCO chooses to implement registration, it may charge up to \$200 per provider as a registration fee, which could help offset those costs. The Attorney General will have authority to enforce civil forfeitures for noncompliance. There is no direct fiscal impact on local governments.