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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 223
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 223's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. T. Mathews and Willis

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- There is likely no impact on costs for state agencies under the bill, since they are currently required to buy U.S. or Ohio flags from Ohio Prison Industries operated by the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction under current state procurement law. The bill could, however, result in a small increase in costs for political subdivisions which would now be restricted to buying from vendors of exclusively U.S.-manufactured flags.

Detailed Analysis

The bill prohibits a state entity or political division from purchasing a foreign-made U.S. or Ohio flag. Currently, state purchasing law requires state agencies to buy flags from Ohio Penal Industries (OPI) under the "first requisite procurement" policy. Current OPI prices for a U.S. flag range from \$46.90 to \$188.70 depending on size and material. Prices for Ohio flags range from \$55.99 to \$114.40 based on size and material.

Requiring political subdivisions to buy only U.S.-made flags might conceivably increase their flag purchase costs, as it would limit the pool of manufacturers from which such purchases can be made. However, the Flag Manufacturers Association of America reports that about 95% of United States flags are manufactured entirely in the United States. This suggests that the bulk of U.S. or Ohio flags procured by political subdivisions are currently purchased from vendors supplying U.S.-made goods.