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H.B. 31
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 31's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Humphrey and Stewart

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) may incur a few hundred thousands of dollars in operating costs annually as well as one-time information technology infrastructure costs in order to comply with the bill's requirements related to electronic recordings.
- ODRC may recoup some of the costs from authorized public records charges when responding to requests for the electronic recordings of full Parole Board hearings, as current Public Records Law requires public records be made available to the requestor "at cost."
- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions of the state.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) to make electronic recordings of full Parole Board hearings and other types of hearings including institutional Parole Board release consideration hearings, certain revocation hearings, certain post-release control revocation hearings, and to adopt rules accordingly. Electronic recordings of full Parole Board hearings are considered to be "public records" under the Public Records Law for which any person may make a request for a copy. For electronic recording of other Parole Board hearings, the bill states that only upon the request of a person entitled to receive the recording, as defined under the bill, ODRC must provide the electronic recording.

The bill requires that an electronic recording, when released, not include personal identifying information of any victim or their immediate family. Any authorized party, person, or entity that wishes to have the electronic hearing of a Parole Board hearing transcribed must do so at their own expense.

Fiscal effect

The table below displays ODRC Parole Board hearing data for two of the types of hearings for which the making of an electronic recording would be required under the bill: (1) institutional Parole Board release consideration hearings, and (2) field violation hearings. For those two types of hearings, the number of required electronic recordings per year tends to be less than 5,000. The actual number of meetings for which electronic recording will be required annually under the bill is likely higher.

ODRC Parole Board Hearings – CY 2023 and CY 2024		
Hearing Types	CY 2023	CY 2024
Institutional Parole Board release consideration hearings	900	1,039
Field violation hearings	3,514	3,558*
Total	4,414	4,597*

Source: ODRC

*Indicates preliminary data

In order to comply with the bill, ODRC estimates they would need to hire at least two new Parole Program Specialists to handle the increased workload. In addition to making and storing the electronic recordings, staff will have to redact victim/victim's immediate family personal identifying information before providing copies of electronic recordings. The salaries and benefits of these positions would likely be in the range of \$100,000 to \$120,000 per position per year according to the agency.

There will likely also be some one-time information technology infrastructure costs related to creating and storing the records and minimal one-time rule adoption costs.

Some offsetting revenue may be generated in responding to public records requests for the electronic recording of a full Parole Board hearing. Current Public Records Law requires public records be made available to the requestor "at cost." Persons entitled to receive the electronic recordings, as defined by the bill, may request a transcript of the electronic recording. The cost of producing a transcript will be charged at cost, to the requesting party.