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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 330**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 330's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Deeter and Fischer

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** Yes

Ruhaiza Ridzwan, Senior Economist

### **Highlights**

- The bill authorizes a sales and use tax exemption on firearm storage and safety devices when purchased in March, April, November, or December, which would reduce revenue from the state sales and use tax (SUT) by roughly up to \$2.5 million per year. The potential revenue loss may begin in FY 2027. However, the actual revenue loss would depend on the bill's effective date and taxpayers' spending behavior, which could be lower or higher than the estimated amount.
- The GRF would bear 98.25% of any revenue loss. Under codified law, the Local Government Fund (LGF) receives 1.75% of state GRF tax revenue in FY 2027. Therefore, distributions to the LGF would decrease by up to \$44,000 per year.
- Permissive county and transit authorities' sales taxes share the same tax base as the state SUT. Sales tax revenue for these local governments is about 25% of state sales tax revenue. Thus, revenue to county governments and transit authorities is expected to decrease by up to \$0.6 million per year.

### **Detailed Analysis**

The bill authorizes a sales and use tax (SUT) exemption on a firearm safety device or firearm storage device that is purchased in March, April, November, or December of any year. The bill includes definitions for "firearm safety device" and "firearm storage device." The SUT exemption applies on and after the first day of March, April, November, or December following the bill's 90-day effective date, whichever comes first. The bill also requires the Tax Commissioner, on or before December 1 and August 1 of each year, to make available to vendors a notice explaining the two-month exemption period required under the bill, commencing on the following first day of March or November, respectively.

## Fiscal effect

The bill would exempt sales of firearm safety and firearm storage devices from the state SUT and local sales and use taxes when they are purchased in specified months after the bill's effective date. The SUT exemption would decrease the SUT revenue by roughly up to \$2.5 million per year, based on data and assumptions below. The bill's notice requirement on the Tax Commissioner may increase the Department of Taxation's administrative costs. Any increase is likely minimal and would be paid from GRF appropriation line item 110321, Operating Expenses.

Data limitations and the dependence of revenue effects on consumer behavior do not allow for a precise estimate of the number of taxpayers likely to take advantage of the exemption or the amount that may be spent on firearm safety and firearm storage devices in applicable months of each year. However, according to information on the [Safe Storage Options Infographic \(PDF\)](#), published by Project ChildSafe, the prices of cable locks, gun cases, and lock boxes range between \$10 and \$350, while the prices of full size and biometric gun safes range between \$200 and \$2,500. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), there were 621,569 background checks performed in Ohio in CY 2025.<sup>1</sup> By assuming this statistic is a proxy for gun sales, and that one-fifth of gun owners would also purchase a firearm safety device such as a cable lock, gun case, or lock box for each weapon, the estimated SUT revenue losses associated with the exemption on sales of firearm safety devices would be roughly up to \$2.5 million per year. The initial revenue loss may begin in FY 2027. The actual SUT revenue loss would depend on prices of such devices and taxpayers' spending behavior, which could be lower or higher than the estimated amount, for instance if taxpayers purchased a smaller or larger number of devices, or cheaper or pricier devices during the applicable months in each year.

The GRF would bear 98.25% of any revenue loss. Under codified law, the Local Government Fund (LGF) receives 1.75% of state GRF tax revenue, thus, distributions to the LGF would decrease by about \$44,000 in FY 2027. In addition, permissive county and transit authorities' sales taxes share the same tax base as the state SUT. Sales tax revenue for these local governments is about 25% of state sales tax revenue. Thus, revenue to county governments and transit authorities is expected to decrease by up to \$0.6 million in FY 2027.

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<sup>1</sup> More information on the [number of background checks](#) can be found on the Federal Bureau of Investigation website: [fbi.gov](https://www.fbi.gov).