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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 491
(I_136_0658-2)
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 491's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: In House Judiciary

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Ray and Baker

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Robert Meeker, Senior Budget Analyst

The bill has no direct fiscal impact on the state and minimal impact on political subdivisions. Judges and the Ohio Judicial Conference expect the changes made to the laws governing guardianships to be fiscally neutral for the courts: causing neither significant expenses, revenues, nor savings for the probate divisions of the courts of common pleas. Likewise, locally operated social service agencies that are involved in guardianship proceedings are not expected to experience more than minimal additional costs because of the bill. The bill makes several changes to the Guardianship Law including definitional updates, and changes to the applications for guardianship of both minors and adults, hearing notices, and guardianship appointment, among others. Additionally, the bill includes modifications to the use of a guardian ad litem in limited circumstances. Under current practice, the cost of a guardian ad litem is set and assessed by the court. Typically, the costs are attached to the case and shared by the parties. If the parties are indigent, those costs may be borne by the court or other local agencies. See the [LSC bill analysis](#) for a comprehensive review of changes in the bill.

Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes

The fiscal effects of the substitute bill (I_136_0658-2) are substantially similar to the effects of the As Introduced version of the bill.