OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

H.B. 630
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for H.B. 630's Bill Analysis

Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Dean

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill exempts farm machinery or equipment haulers from the need to have law enforcement escorts when transporting farm machinery or equipment. Because there will be fewer such escorts, it would presumably yield minimal cost savings for county sheriffs and other law enforcement agencies providing farm vehicle escorts.
- The bill requires the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to issue an annual permit with a fee of up to $100 that allows a person to operate farm equipment or machinery on limited access highways and freeways under ODOT's jurisdiction. Any fee revenue collected from these permits would be deposited into the Highway Operating Fund (Fund 7002).
- The bill gives local jurisdictions the authority to require a similar permit and accompanying fee for operating farm equipment or machinery on roads under their jurisdiction.

Detailed Analysis

Law enforcement escorts

The bill exempts a farm equipment permit holder from the requirement to obtain a law enforcement escort when hauling farm machinery or equipment under two conditions: (1) the permit holder hauls the machinery or equipment on a state route other than an interstate, and (2) the distance of the haul is less than ten miles. This exemption would potentially result in some minimal cost savings for county sheriffs or other municipal law enforcement agencies that would otherwise have to provide such an escort to haul the equipment. The bill would have no impact on the number of individuals requiring a farm equipment permit nor otherwise have any fiscal impact on the state or political subdivisions.

Annual farm machinery or equipment permits

The bill requires the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Director to issue a permit along with a fee of up to $100 allowing farm equipment or machinery operators to use limited access highways or freeways under ODOT's jurisdiction. These permits are in addition to the special hauling permits that exist under current law. Any additional permit revenue generated under the bill would be deposited into the Highway Operating Fund (Fund 7002). The amount of potential revenue that would be generated will depend on the number of such permits issued and the amount ODOT decides to charge.

The bill gives local authorities the ability to issue a similar permit type for operating farm machinery or equipment on limited access highways or freeways under their jurisdiction. Just as with the permits issued by ODOT, any additional fee revenue that local jurisdictions would see from issuing permits will depend on the number of permits issued and the fee established for those permits.

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