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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

H.B. 654
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 654's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Deeter and Manning

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Keegan Kennedy, Budget Analyst

Highlights

- Due to the penalty enhancements included in the bill, some misdemeanor cases may shift from the jurisdiction of county and municipal courts to courts of common pleas. Based on current charging data, the number of cases that may shift is likely to be negligible for any single jurisdiction.
- For those offenders that may be subjected to the bill's penalty enhancements for abuse of a corpse, the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) may experience additional expenditures in order to house a relatively small number of offenders for a longer term of incarceration.

Detailed Analysis

The bill enhances the penalties for abuse of a corpse and gross abuse of a corpse. The following table details the penalty increases in the bill.

Table 1. Sentences and Fines for Abuse of a Corpse

Offense	Degree Level	Fine (up to amounts)	Term of Incarceration
Current Law			
Abuse of a corpse – to treat a human corpse in a way that would outrage reasonable community sensibilities	Second degree misdemeanor	\$750	Jail, not more than 90 days

Table 1. Sentences and Fines for Abuse of a Corpse

Offense	Degree Level	Fine (up to amounts)	Term of Incarceration
Gross abuse of a corpse – to treat a human corpse in a way that would outrage reasonable community sensibilities	Fifth degree felony	\$2,500	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 months definite prison term
Under the Bill			
Abuse of a corpse – to treat a human corpse in a way that would outrage reasonable community sensibilities	Fifth degree felony	\$2,500	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 months definite prison term
Gross abuse of a corpse – to treat a human corpse in a way that would outrage reasonable community sensibilities	Fourth degree felony	\$5,000	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, or 18 months definite prison term
Gross abuse of a corpse – if the offender dismembers, mutilates, or intentionally disfigures a human corpse	Third degree felony	\$10,000	9, 12, 18, 24, 30, or 36 months definite prison term
Gross abuse of a corpse – if the offender dismembers, mutilates, or intentionally disfigures a human corpse for the purpose of concealing a crime, obstructing justice, or impairing the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense	Second degree felony	\$15,000	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 years definite prison term

Fiscal effect

The impact of the bill on local and state criminal justice systems is expected to be minimal, as the conduct may, in some circumstances, be prosecuted under current law prohibitions against abuse of a corpse and gross abuse of a corpse. Due to the penalty enhancements, however, certain cases may be impacted in the way they are adjudicated. According to the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS), on average there have been 14 abuse of corpse incidents annually since CY 2020. The highest number of incidents in a given year was 18 in CY 2022, and the lowest was seven in CY 2025.¹ According to the Franklin County Municipal

¹ OIBRS is a voluntary reporting program in which Ohio law enforcement agencies can submit crime statistics directly to the state and federal government. At this time, the number of law enforcement agencies submitting data to OIBRS represents approximately 81% of the population. OIBRS does not

Court's annual report, there was only one abuse of a corpse case adjudicated in that court in 2024.

Since the bill increases the penalty for abuse of a corpse from a second degree misdemeanor to a fifth degree felony, the responsibility for adjudicating such offenses would shift from the county and municipal courts to the courts of common pleas. This workload shift may entail additional costs for the courts of common pleas, albeit likely minimally as evidenced in the statistics cited above.

Because of the bill's penalty enhancements, DRC's inmate population may increase over time as offenders receive longer sentences. However, based on current charging and adjudication trends as well as the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) commitments, as shown below, it is expected that there will be a relatively small number of offenders subsequently sentenced to a longer term of incarceration in state prison as a result of this bill.

Offense	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Abuse of a Corpse	0	0	0	2	1
Total Commitments	17,126	13,909	12,020	14,310	14,417

The associated annual operating cost increase for DRC is expected to be minimal. For context, in 2025, the marginal cost to house an offender was \$13.47 per day.³ Marginal costs are those that increase or decrease directly on a per-person basis with changes in prison population. Such costs include medical care, food service, clothing and bedding (for inmates), and mental health services. Using the 2024 daily marginal cost, it costs DRC \$4,916.55 (\$13.47 x 365) to house an additional individual for one year. The actual increase in costs for DRC will depend on the number of offenders who ultimately serve longer sentences under the bill than they otherwise would have under existing law, the additional length of the term, and the marginal cost per offender in each additional year of that term.

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reflect final charging data or eventual sentencing, but it may provide a sense of the overall number of violations of an offense.

² See [DRC Commitment Reports](#) for FY 2019 through FY 2023, which are available on DRC's website: drc.ohio.gov.

³ See DRC's 2025 Annual Report, which is available on the Department's website via key word search "Annual Report": drc.ohio.gov.