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Office

H.B. 846
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 846's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. C. Thomas and Plummer

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Office of the Attorney General will incur one-time and ongoing costs to establish and maintain the Repeat Domestic Violence Offender Registry. If work for the registry is incorporated into the current contract with the vendor operating its existing sex offender, arson, and violent offender registries/databases, initial costs are estimated at up to \$50,000, and up to \$15,000 to \$20,000 annually thereafter.
- The bill will create some additional workload for clerks of courts related to providing the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) with certified copies of records of convictions or pleas for domestic violence offenses, likely minimal.

Detailed Analysis

The bill creates the Repeat Domestic Violence Offender Registry maintained by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). If a court determines a person to be a repeat domestic violence offender, the bill requires the person to register with BCI. BCI must remove the repeat domestic violence offender from the Registry after two, five, or ten years, based on the offender's prior convictions of domestic violence.

According to BCI's [2025 Domestic Violence Report \(PDF\)](#), law enforcement agencies reported nearly 60,000 domestic dispute calls in 2025. For that same year, the Franklin County Municipal Court alone processed more than 4,000 misdemeanor domestic violence cases and 12 felony cases. There is a lack of statewide conviction data that links these calls, cases, and whether an individual is a repeat offender. However, it is presumed that a much smaller subset of these numbers would qualify as repeat offenders requiring registration.

Attorney General

Based on past examples of new registries hosted by the Attorney General, the initial development cost for the Repeat Domestic Violence Offender Registry could total up to \$50,000, with ongoing annual costs of about \$15,000 to \$20,000 thereafter. This assumes that the new registry will be included in current contracts with the existing vendor.

The Attorney General currently operates the Ohio Sex Offender, Arson, and Violent Offender Registration and Notification System under contract with Watch Systems, LLC. The contract for FY 2026 was approved by the Controlling Board on June 2, 2025. According to the Controlling Board request, Watch Systems, LLC will receive \$692,185 in FY 2026 from the General Reimbursement Fund (Fund 1060) for licensing, maintenance, and technical support associated with the system. Incorporating these additional duties described above into the contract would increase overall contract costs.

BCI will likely incur some additional ongoing administrative costs to add and remove offenders from the new registry. Such increases will likely be absorbed utilizing current staff and resources. The bill does not provide for a registration fee.

Courts

According to the Ohio Judicial Conference, the requirement for courts to determine whether a person is a repeat domestic violence offender will not notably affect current court procedures, but simply adds an element to the adjudication of the offense. For clerks of courts, the bill will create some additional workload related to providing BCI with certified copies of records of convictions or pleas for domestic violence offenses. Any increase in workload is expected to be minimal, as the activity would be handled within clerks' existing processes for transmitting case information to BCI.