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H.B. 852
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsor: Rep. K. Miller

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill is expected to have a minimal direct fiscal impact on the state and local governments.
- Any indirect costs that do arise would likely relate to updates in hiring policies and, in some cases, basic training expenses for interim appointees.
- As most police chief and village marshal appointees hold a current peace officer basic training certificate, and the bill applies prospectively, any potential loss in grant or training funds from either the Department of Public Safety or the Attorney General is expected to be unlikely.

Detailed Analysis

The bill generally prohibits a city, township, or village from appointing an individual as a police chief or village marshal unless the person already holds a current peace officer basic training certificate. It permits the appointment of an uncertified individual only on an interim basis for up to six months, during which the appointee must enroll in a peace officer basic training program. A jurisdiction that either fails to fill a police chief or village marshal vacancy within 180 days or appoints someone in violation of these requirements becomes ineligible to receive law enforcement grants from the Department of Public Safety as well as continuing professional training (CPT) reimbursements from the Attorney General.

It is important to note that the bill does not alter existing requirements under R.C. 109.804, which mandate separate police chief training; instead, it adds the requirement that chiefs must also have completed basic training.

Fiscal effect

The bill is expected to have minimal fiscal effects on both the state and local governments. It appears that most individuals appointed as police chiefs or village marshals also hold a peace officer basic training certificate, and according to the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, only a very small subset of recent appointees have lacked certification. Because the bill applies prospectively, it would not affect any current appointees who do not hold a peace officer basic training certificate.

Local governments may need to update hiring policies to reflect the new requirement, but these administrative adjustments should be minor. Some additional training costs may be incurred where a jurisdiction wishes to appoint an uncertified individual, as the bill permits an interim appointment during which the individual may complete basic training, and a local agency could choose to cover the associated costs.[1] Compliance with the bill is assumed, and therefore no loss of Department of Public Safety grant funding or Attorney General CPT reimbursements is anticipated.

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[1] Currently, more than 50 peace officer training academies are certified to conduct basic training. These academies are operated by state universities, community colleges, Ohio technical centers, and local police departments. Tuition varies by provider, with many "open enrollment" programs costing $5,000 or more, while some police operated ("closed") academies charge no tuition for their own recruits and may even pay salaries during training.