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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**S.B. 343**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for S.B. 343's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Passed by the Senate

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Manning

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

Maggie West, Senior Budget Analyst, and other LBO staff

### **Highlights**

- The Department of Public Safety may incur a minimal increase in Bureau of Workers' Compensation premiums if an in-state deployment of the designated urban search and rescue team results in the filing of a workers' compensation claim.

### **Detailed Analysis**

For compensation and benefits paid under the Workers' Compensation Law, the bill considers an individual who is a member of a designated urban search and rescue team as an employee of the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) established within the Department of Public Safety (DPS) if all of the following apply: (1) the individual sustains an injury or contracts an occupational disease that is compensable under the state Workers' Compensation Law, (2) the individual sustains the injury or contracts the occupational disease while rendering assistance or aid in the state in the individual's capacity as a member of the designated urban search and rescue team, (3) the individual rendered the assistance or aid at the request of the Executive Director of EMA, and (4) the assistance was rendered pursuant to a written agreement with the Executive Director of EMA.

Under current law, personnel of political subdivisions who provide mutual assistance or aid outside their jurisdiction under a mutual assistance or aid agreement with another political subdivision or the Ohio Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact are covered under applicable political subdivisions for workers' compensation coverage. Accordingly, the bill would shift undetermined workers' compensation coverage costs associated with such individuals that meet all the conditions itemized under the bill from applicable political subdivisions to DPS. The magnitude of any resulting increase is likely to be minimal in the context of the agency's overall costs. According to DPS, Ohio Task Force 1, which is Ohio's Urban Search and Rescue force, has only been deployed in-state once since its inception in 1996, so the likelihood of a claim being filed is low.