OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

S.B. 421
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for S.B. 421's Bill Analysis

Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Antonio and Manning

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill raises the civil statute of limitations from one year to five years for an action brought against an individual for conduct prohibited as a sex offense.
- To the extent the bill impacts current civil caseloads, it would involve the volume of actions before the common pleas, municipal, and county courts with jurisdiction over those matters. The overall impact to existing caseloads would likely be minimal.

Detailed Analysis

The bill extends the civil statute of limitations by four years, from one year to five years, for an action brought against an individual for conduct prohibited as a sex offense. The bill will likely have a minimal fiscal effect on local trial courts. To the extent the bill creates any fiscal effect, it would involve the volume of actions before the common pleas, municipal, and county courts with jurisdiction over civil actions. By increasing the time frame in which actions must be brought, it is possible that some cases may be brought that otherwise may not have been filed or would have been dismissed because the plaintiff(s) allowed the current period of limitations to expire.

The effect on the daily operations and related operating expenses of the courts will depend on the monetary amount being sought by the victim, the frequency of civil actions being filed, and the matter's legal complexity. Municipal and county courts have limited civil jurisdiction and may only hear cases in which the amount of money in dispute does not exceed $15,000. Common pleas courts hear all cases in which the amount of money in dispute is more than $15,000. Most cases would likely be filed with courts of common pleas due to these monetary thresholds.