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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 243
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 243's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Cutrona

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- Any political subdivision enforcing an ordinance, resolution, or rule prohibited under the bill will see a decrease in regulatory and enforcement expenses and a related decrease in revenues, e.g., fines or fees.
- Any political subdivision enforcing a tax on the sale or purchase of knives may experience a minimal annual tax loss.

Detailed Analysis

The bill prohibits a political subdivision from: (1) enacting an ordinance, resolution, rule, or tax relating to the transportation, possession, carrying, sale, transfer, purchase, gift, devise, licensing, registration, or use of a knife or knife-making components, or (2) regulating or taxing the manufacture of knives in a manner more restrictive than the manufacture of other commercial goods. The bill repeals any contrary ordinances, resolutions, or rules.

Any political subdivision enforcing any contrary ordinance, resolution, or rule will see a decrease in regulatory and enforcement expenses, with a likely decrease in related revenues, e.g., fees or fines. Schools, courthouses, prisons, and jails covered by existing weapons control prohibitions and restrictions are unaffected by the bill.

The bill might result in minimal annual tax revenue losses for political subdivisions that are enforcing a tax on the sale or purchase of knives. For political subdivisions with such a tax, presumably, residents could travel to nearby jurisdictions to avoid it, so it is likely little local tax revenue is being generated. In such cases, it is likely state sales taxes, and permissive county and transit authority taxes would have been collected. Residents of the political subdivisions could also use remote purchases (internet, telephone, catalog, etc.) to get their knives or accessories, and likely not pay a tax imposed by a political subdivision.

Effective April 12, 2021, S.B. 140 of the 133rd General Assembly eliminated the prohibition against manufacturing, possessing for sale, selling, or furnishing to any person other than a law enforcement agency for authorized use in police work, any brass knuckles, cestus, billy, blackjack, sandbag, switchblade knife, springblade knife, gravity knife, or similar weapon.