

Ohio Legislative Service Commission
77 South High Street, 9th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6136 ♦ Phone: (614) 466-3615
♦ Internet Web Site: <http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/>

Existing Sentences and Fines for Misdemeanor Offenses Generally		
Offense Level	Maximum Fine	Maximum Term of Local Incarceration
Misdemeanor 4th degree	\$250	30-day jail stay
Misdemeanor 3rd degree	\$500	60-day jail stay
Misdemeanor 2nd degree	\$750	90-day jail stay
Misdemeanor 1st degree	\$1,000	6 month jail stay

Local fiscal effects

As of this writing, to the degree that the bill generates a noticeable fiscal effect, it would likely be experienced by county-operated juvenile justice systems. This is because these matters related to child abuse and neglect would fall under the subject matter jurisdiction of a juvenile court.

As a result of the bill's penalty enhancement, an offender who would have been prosecuted and sanctioned under existing law will face the possibility of a more serious punishment (see the Table 1 comparisons above). It appears, however, that the number of offenders that would likely be affected by the aforementioned penalty enhancement in any given juvenile justice system annually appears likely to be relatively small. Assuming that were true, then any increase in the annual operating costs of any given juvenile justice system seems unlikely to exceed minimal. Cost components would include expenses related to investigating, prosecuting, adjudicating (including a possible jury trial), and sanctioning the offender. For the purposes of this fiscal analysis, a minimal expenditure increase means an estimated annual cost of no more than \$5,000 for any affected county.

Court cost and fine revenues

By enhancing the penalty in existing criminal cases, the bill creates the potential for additional court cost and fine revenues to be collected by any affected county's juvenile justice system. As previously noted, it appears that the number of offenders that could be affected by the bill in any given year is likely to be relatively small. Assuming that were true, then the revenue gain in any given county seems unlikely to exceed minimal annually. For the purposes of this fiscal analysis, a minimal revenue gain means an estimated annual increase of no more than \$5,000 for any affected county.

State fiscal effects

As the bill does not affect felony cases and appears unlikely to create new misdemeanor cases, there is no readily apparent direct effect on state revenues and expenditures.

LSC fiscal staff: Deborah Hoffman, Budget Analyst

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