



Judicial Impact Statement

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HB 354 – Concurrent Jurisdiction of Drug Court

HB 354

Title Information

To enact section 1901.186 of the Revised Code to provide the Tiffin-Fostoria municipal court with concurrent jurisdiction with the Seneca County court of common pleas in operating a drug addiction recovery program.

Rep. Reineke

Background

Drug courts are often referred to as “problem-solving courts” because they are designed to address the underlying problems that result in criminal behavior rather than to solely penalize the criminal behavior. Because an offender who is eligible for a drug court will participate in treatment and other pro-social programming, drug courts have proven to be a cost-effective method of reducing recidivism.

Judicial Impact

HB 354 grants the Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court and the Seneca County court of common pleas concurrent jurisdiction in certain criminal proceedings in which the offender is admitted to participate in a drug recovery program. The judicial impact of HB 354 is limited to Seneca County, but that impact is overwhelmingly positive. In counties where there are not enough resources – or eligible participants – to warrant the creation of more than one drug court, concurrent jurisdiction is a viable and practical solution.

Conclusion

The Ohio Judicial Conference supports HB 354. Additionally, because the idea of collaboration between courts within a county is a practical way to provide the services of drug courts to more people in need, the Ohio Judicial Conference would support an expansion of HB 354 to include other counties or to be applied statewide.