



Ohio Revised Code

Section 2744.081 Joint self-insurance pool - risk-management.

Effective: March 16, 2017

Legislation: Senate Bill 3 - 131st General Assembly

(A) Regardless of whether a political subdivision, under section 2744.08 of the Revised Code, secures a policy or policies of liability insurance, establishes and maintains a self-insurance program, or enters into an agreement for the joint administration of a self-insurance program, the political subdivision may, pursuant to a written agreement and to the extent that it considers necessary, join with other political subdivisions in establishing and maintaining a joint self-insurance pool to provide for the payment of judgments, settlement of claims, expense, loss, and damage that arises, or is claimed to have arisen, from an act or omission of the political subdivision or any of its employees in connection with a governmental or proprietary function and to indemnify or hold harmless the subdivision's employees against such loss or damage.

All of the following apply to a joint self-insurance pool under this section:

(1) Such funds shall be reserved as are necessary, in the exercise of sound and prudent actuarial judgment, to cover potential political subdivision and employee liability, expense, loss, and damage. A report of aggregate amounts so reserved and aggregate disbursements made from such funds, together with a written report of a member of the American academy of actuaries certifying whether the amounts reserved conform to the requirements of this division, are computed in accordance with accepted loss reserving standards, and are fairly stated in accordance with sound loss reserving principles, shall be prepared and maintained in the office of the pool administrator described in division (A)(2) of this section. The report shall be prepared and maintained on or before the last day of March for the preceding calendar year or, if the joint self-insurance pool's fiscal year is other than a calendar year, not later than ninety days after the close of the pool's fiscal year.

The report required by this division shall include, but not be limited to, the aggregate of disbursements made for the administration of the pool, including claims paid, costs of the legal representation of political subdivisions and employees, and fees paid to consultants.

The pool administrator described in division (A)(2) of this section shall make the report required by this division available for inspection by any person at all reasonable times during regular business hours, and, upon the request of such person, shall make copies of the report available at cost within a reasonable period of time. The pool administrator also shall submit a copy of the report to the auditor of state.



The report required by this division is in lieu of the records required by division (A) of section 149.431 of the Revised Code.

(2) A contract may be awarded, without the necessity of competitive bidding, to any person, political subdivision, nonprofit corporation organized under Chapter 1702. of the Revised Code, or regional council of governments created under Chapter 167. of the Revised Code for purposes of administration of a joint self-insurance pool. No such contract shall be entered into without full, prior, public disclosure of all terms and conditions. Such disclosure shall include, at a minimum, a statement listing all representations made in connection with any possible savings and losses resulting from such contract, and potential liability of any political subdivision or employee. The proposed contract and statement shall be disclosed and presented at a meeting of the political subdivision not less than one week prior to the meeting at which the political subdivision authorizes the contract.

(3) A joint self-insurance pool shall include a contract with a member of the American academy of actuaries for the preparation of the written evaluation of the reserve funds required under division (A)(1) of this section.

(4) A joint self-insurance pool may allocate the costs of funding the pool among the funds or accounts in the treasuries of the political subdivisions on the basis of their relative exposure and loss experience. A joint self-insurance program may require any deductible under the program to be paid from funds or accounts in the treasury of the political subdivision from which a loss was directly attributable.

(B) Two or more political subdivisions may also authorize the establishment and maintenance of a joint risk-management program, including but not limited to the employment of risk managers and consultants, for the purpose of preventing and reducing the risks covered by insurance, self-insurance, or joint self-insurance programs.

(C) A political subdivision is not liable under a joint self-insurance pool for any amount in excess of amounts payable pursuant to the written agreement for the participation of the political subdivision in the joint self-insurance pool. Under a joint self-insurance pool agreement a political subdivision may, to the extent permitted under the written agreement, assume the risks of any other political subdivision, including the indemnification of its employees. A joint self-insurance pool, established under this section, is deemed a separate legal entity for the public purpose of enabling the members of the joint self-insurance pool to obtain insurance or to provide for a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance fund for its members. An entity created pursuant to this section is exempt from all state and local taxes.

(D) Any political subdivision may issue general obligation bonds, or special obligation bonds which are not payable from real or personal property taxes, and may also issue notes in anticipation of such bonds, pursuant to an ordinance or resolution of its legislative authority or



other governing body for the purpose of providing funds to pay judgments, losses, damages, and the expenses of litigation or settlement of claims, whether by way of a reserve or otherwise, and to pay the political subdivision's portion of the cost of establishing and maintaining a joint self-insurance pool or to provide for the reserve in the special fund authorized by division (A)(2)(a) of section 2744.08 of the Revised Code.

In its ordinance or resolution authorizing bonds or notes under this section, a political subdivision may elect to issue such bonds or notes under the procedures set forth in Chapter 133. of the Revised Code. In the event of such an election, notwithstanding Chapter 133. of the Revised Code, the maturity of the bonds may be for any period authorized in the ordinance or resolution not exceeding twenty years, which period shall be the maximum maturity of the bonds for purposes of section 133.22 of the Revised Code.

Bonds and notes issued under this section shall not be considered in calculating the net indebtedness of the political subdivision under sections 133.04, 133.05, 133.06, and 133.07 of the Revised Code. Sections 9.98 to 9.983 of the Revised Code apply to bonds or notes authorized under this section.

(E)(1) A joint self-insurance pool, in addition to its powers to provide self-insurance against any and all liabilities under this chapter, may also include any one or more of the following forms of property or casualty self-insurance for the purpose of covering any other liabilities or risks of the members of the pool:

- (a) Public general liability, professional liability, or employees liability;
- (b) Individual or fleet motor vehicle or automobile liability and protection against other liability and loss associated with the ownership, maintenance, and use of motor vehicles;
- (c) Aircraft liability and protection against other liability and loss associated with the ownership, maintenance, and use of aircraft;
- (d) Fidelity, surety, and guarantee;
- (e) Loss or damage to property and loss of use and occupancy of property by fire, lightning, hail, tempest, flood, earthquake, or snow, explosion, accident, or other risk;
- (f) Marine, inland transportation and navigation, boiler, containers, pipes, engines, flywheels, elevators, and machinery;
- (g) Environmental impairment;
- (h) Loss or damage by any hazard upon any other risk to which political subdivisions are subject, which is not prohibited by statute or at common law from being the subject of casualty or property insurance.



(2) A joint self-insurance pool is not an insurance company. Its operation does not constitute doing an insurance business and is not subject to the insurance laws of this state.

(F) A public official or employee of a political subdivision who is or becomes a member of the governing body of a joint self-insurance pool in which the political subdivision participates is not in violation of division (D) or (E) of section 102.03, division (C) of section 102.04, or section 2921.42 of the Revised Code as a result of the political subdivision's entering under this section into the written agreement to participate in the pool or into any contract with the pool.

(G) This section shall not be construed to affect the ability of any political subdivision to self-insure under the authority conferred by any other section of the Revised Code.

The Legislative Service Commission presents the text of this section as a composite of the section as amended by multiple acts of the General Assembly. This presentation recognizes the principle stated in R.C. 1.52(B) that amendments are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation.