



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Wendy Risner

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Sub. H.B. 100 of the 129th G.A.

Date: July 6, 2011

Status: As Reported by House Health & Aging

Sponsor: Rep. S. Williams

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: To authorize the Department of Health to create the Lupus Education and Awareness Program

State Fiscal Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is permitted to establish, maintain, and promote a lupus education and awareness program. The bill also creates the Lupus Education and Awareness Fund and allows ODH to accept gifts, grants, and donations from various entities to fulfill the program's obligations. As such, the establishment and implementation of the program will likely depend on ODH's ability to secure grants and donations.
- ODH is permitted to establish a panel to advise ODH and the intergovernmental council on the implementation of the Lupus Education and Awareness Program. If the panel is created, ODH could experience a minimal increase in costs for member reimbursements of necessary and actual expenses.
- ODH is permitted to conduct a needs assessment about various lupus-related issues and to raise public awareness about lupus through a statewide campaign and the dissemination of information. If ODH chooses to conduct these activities, then there would be an increase in administrative, advertising, and printing costs.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- ODH is permitted to raise public awareness about lupus by disseminating information through certain local governmental entities such as local health departments, schools, hospitals, and others. If these activities were undertaken by ODH, local governmental entities would likely distribute any materials in the same manner other awareness and/or public health materials are currently distributed. Thus, local governmental agencies may experience a negligible increase in administrative costs.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill authorizes the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to create the Lupus Education and Awareness Program.

Lupus Education and Awareness Program

The bill allows ODH to establish, maintain, and promote a lupus education and awareness program that has an emphasis on at-risk communities. ODH may provide sufficient staff and appropriate training to carry out the program. It may also create two grant programs (one for health professionals and service providers affiliated with the Lupus Foundation of America and one for nonprofit organizations). The bill also allows ODH to coordinate efforts with governmental entities, health and human services providers, and lupus organizations to maximize state resources. Additionally, ODH is permitted to identify and use other successful lupus education and awareness programs and obtain related materials and services from organizations with expertise and knowledge of lupus.

The bill creates the Lupus Education and Awareness Program Fund and allows ODH to accept gifts, grants, and donations from various entities to fulfill the program's obligations. ODH may seek any federal waiver that may be necessary to maximize funds from the federal government to implement the program. The bill does not specifically appropriate any other funds for the program. As such, the establishment and implementation of the program will likely depend on ODH's ability to secure grants and donations.

Intergovernmental council

The bill allows ODH to establish an intergovernmental council to, among other things, oversee the Lupus Education and Awareness Program. Representatives from appropriate Ohio departments and agencies are to be included as part of the council if created. The bill outlines the duties of the council, one of which is to prepare an annual report, which is to be submitted to the General Assembly, describing state-sponsored lupus education initiatives and new recommendations for new lupus education initiatives. Since the council members are state employees, duties associated with a council would likely become part of their jobs.

Advisory panel

The bill allows ODH to establish a panel to advise ODH and the intergovernmental council on the implementation of the Lupus Education and Awareness Program. The members of the panel are to be appointed by the ODH Director and must have familiarity with lupus and lupus-related issues. Members will serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses. ODH may experience a minimal increase in costs associated with reimbursements of members if a panel is created.

Needs assessment and program administration

The bill permits ODH to conduct a needs assessment to, among other things, identify the level of statewide health professional and public awareness about lupus and the educational and support service needs of health care providers and the needs of individuals with lupus. Based on the needs assessment, ODH may develop and maintain a directory of lupus-related services and providers with specialization in lupus. The information may be disseminated to all stakeholders. ODH may raise public awareness about lupus. The public awareness activities may include: a statewide campaign that utilizes public service announcements, advertisements, posters, etc.; disseminating health information and conducting individual risk assessments at public events; and the distribution of information through local health departments, schools, area agencies on aging, employer wellness programs, hospitals, etc. Any activities performed by ODH will likely depend on whether there are available funds and staff.

ODH is permitted to distribute lupus information to certain local governmental agencies. If this information is distributed, local governmental agencies would likely distribute the materials in the same manner other awareness and/or public health materials are currently distributed. Thus, local governmental agencies may experience a negligible increase in administrative costs assuming that ODH would provide the materials or the access to the materials through a web site.