



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 129 of the 129th G.A.](#)

Date: October 5, 2011

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Mallory

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

Contents: Establishes the Bed Bug Awareness, Education, and Prevention Program, and requires local boards of health to adopt vermin control policies under which bed bugs are treated in the same manner as other infestations, and makes an appropriation

State Fiscal Highlights

- **Ohio Department of Health (ODH).** The bill establishes the Bed Bug Awareness, Education, and Prevention Program within the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). ODH would experience an increase in costs for start-up of the program, as well as for educational materials, an automated toll-free number, and hiring a full-time entomologist. The bill appropriates \$335,000 to ODH for the FY 2012-FY 2013 biennium, or \$167,500 in each fiscal year. In order to fund the increase in GRF appropriations, the bill requires the Director of Budget and Management to transfer \$167,500 annually from the Environmental Education Fund (Fund 6A10) in the Environmental Protection Agency to the General Revenue Fund.
- **The Ohio State University (OSU).** ODH is required to administer the program with the assistance of and in consultation with the OSU Department of Entomology and the OSU extension. According to OSU, existing staff will cover any administrative duties associated with the program. OSU may experience an increase in costs as a result of the bill.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- **Local boards of health.** The bill would require each local board of health to adopt policies for the prevention, detection, and eradication of vermin in public places, including residential facilities other than private dwellings. As a result, local boards will experience an increase in costs for rule-making procedures establishing the policies, including things such as public notice and mailings, as well as for administration and enforcement.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill establishes the Bed Bug Awareness, Education, and Prevention Program within the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). ODH is required to administer the program with the assistance of and in consultation with the OSU Department of Entomology and the OSU extension. The bill outlines ODH's requirements in regard to the program and specifies that ODH is to adopt rules to implement the provisions. The requirements are as follows:

- Make available information regarding increasing incidences of bed bug infestation and notices about bed bugs being a pest of significant public health importance;
- Educate hotel owners, residential dwellers, and citizens on the differences between bed bugs and similar types of vermin;
- Encourage hotel owners and residential dwellers to closely monitor floors, bed linens, etc. for signs of infestation;
- Assist in and promote the development of safe and effective treatment methods or options for eradication; and
- Operate a toll-free number for the reporting of bed bug infestations or to request information.

The bill appropriates \$335,000 for the FY 2012-FY 2013 biennium to ODH for the program. In order to fund the increase in General Revenue Fund (GRF) appropriations, the bill requires the Director of Budget and Management to transfer \$167,500 annually from the Environmental Education Fund (Fund 6A10) in the Environmental Protection Agency to the GRF.

The bill requires each local board of health to adopt policies for the prevention, detection, and eradication of vermin in public places, including residential facilities other than private dwellings. Under each policy, bed bug infestations are to be treated in the same manner as other vermin infestations.

State fiscal impact

ODH will experience an increase in costs relating to the establishment and administration of the program. The costs will be for educational materials, an automated toll-free number, and for a new staff member. ODH expects that a full-time entomologist will be needed to identify bed bug infestations and make consultations, set up the automated toll-free number, respond to mail requests, create and present educational materials, and act as a liaison to local boards of health. The appropriation provided in the bill will cover these costs.

According to OSU, administration of the program will be handled by existing staff. OSU may experience an increase in costs for efforts related to bed bug education and awareness.

Local fiscal impact

According to the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC), most local boards of health currently have a nuisance abatement program that allows them to respond to some vermin infestations. However, these programs do not normally address prevention and detection activities. Instead, the programs respond to individual complaints. Additionally, very few local boards of health have programs that deal with vermin infestations in hotels. According to AOHC, the bill will result in an increase in costs for local boards. The costs will be for rule-making procedures establishing the policies, including things such as public notice and mailings, as well as for administration and enforcement.