



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 155 of the 129th G.A.](#)

Date: May 20, 2011

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Reps. Fedor and N. Garland

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Requires public school bullying policies to prohibit bullying by electronic means and to address certain acts off school property

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- School districts, community schools, and STEM schools may incur minimal costs to expand and annually review bullying policies currently required by law.
- School districts, community schools, and STEM schools may incur minimal administrative costs to make available to students and their parents and guardians bullying policies and an explanation of the seriousness of bullying by electronic means.
- School districts, community schools, STEM schools, and educational service centers may incur additional costs for developing a curriculum for anti-bullying training for administrators, teachers, and certain other staff as part of in-service training already required under continuing law. These costs may be offset, at least partially, through the use of a model anti-bullying curriculum or by state reimbursement for in-service training.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

School anti-bullying policies

Current law requires each school district, community school, and STEM school to adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying on school property or at school-sponsored events. The bill extends these policies to include (1) bullying by electronic means, or cyberbullying; (2) bullying on school buses; and (3) bullying off of school property if it disrupts the educational environment. The bill requires schools and districts to update their policies six months after the bill's effective date and to review the policies annually. Schools and districts may incur administrative costs to modify and annually review their policies, but these costs are not likely to be significant. The Department of Education (ODE) has a model anti-bullying policy that addresses cyberbullying available for schools and districts to adapt to their situations.¹

Under continuing law, a school must include the bullying policy in its student handbook. The bill further requires the policy and an explanation of the seriousness of cyberbullying be made available to all students and their parents and guardians. Again, any potential administrative costs associated with this additional requirement are not likely to be significant.

In-service training

Current law requires training on bullying policies to the extent that state or federal funds are appropriated for that purpose. Instead, the bill requires schools and educational service centers (ESCs) to provide training on anti-bullying policies through their existing mandatory in-service training programs. The bill requires each district, school, and ESC to develop its own curriculum for the training. Schools, districts, and ESCs may incur one-time administrative costs in developing the curriculum. However, ODE has a model curriculum on anti-bullying on its web site, which presumably may be used to meet this requirement.² Furthermore, by incorporating the training into existing mandatory in-service training programs, schools, districts, and ESCs are eligible for at least partial reimbursement for their costs.

¹ To view ODE's current model anti-bullying policy please go to www.ode.state.oh.us and search for "Model Anti-Bullying Policy."

² To view the model curriculum please go to www.ode.state.oh.us and search for "Safety and Violence Prevention Training."

State model policy

The bill requires ODE to update its model anti-bullying policy to address cyberbullying no later than six months after the bill's effective date. As mentioned above, ODE's policy already addresses cyberbullying. Therefore, this provision has no direct fiscal effect.

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