



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Sub. H.B. 301 of the 129th G.A.](#)
(LSC 129 1556-5)

Date: September 27, 2011

Status: In House Criminal Justice

Sponsor: Reps. Hottinger and Beck

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Requires a parent or guardian to report a child missing to law enforcement promptly after acquiring knowledge that the child is missing

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Specifying that a failure to report a missing child is a violation of a duty of care could result in an increase in criminal prosecutions, but it is unlikely that any increase in costs related to adjudicating those additional cases would exceed minimal.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires that a parent or guardian report a child over whom the parent or guardian has custody missing to law enforcement promptly after acquiring knowledge that the child is missing. The bill specifies that a failure to report a missing child is a violation of current law provisions that specify a duty of care, protection, or support. Generally, a violation of a duty of care is a misdemeanor of the first degree, unless the child is seriously injured, in which case it becomes a felony level offense. The specification in the bill related to failure to report a missing child as a violation of a duty of care could result in an increase in misdemeanor and felony criminal prosecutions, but it is unlikely to result in more than a minimal increase in costs for any given jurisdiction.

The new offense added to the duty of care provision could create a few new criminal cases for failure to report a missing child. The bill does not create any penalty enhancements in which misdemeanor cases would be elevated to felonies, which are generally more costly to adjudicate. Any increase in cost would come from the few additional criminal cases that might emerge from the bill.