



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Merilee Newsham

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 304 of the 130th G.A.](#)

Date: December 2, 2014

Status: As Reported by House Education

Sponsor: Rep. Hayes

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Defines "religious expression" and mandates equal access to school facilities for students who meet to engage in religious expression as is given to secular student groups

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Negligible direct fiscal effect on districts and schools.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill mandates school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools to give the same access to school facilities to students whose purpose for meeting is engaging in religious expression as is given to secular student groups. As defined in the bill, "religious expression" includes prayer, religious gatherings, distribution of written literature, and any other activity of a religious nature. Although schools may experience additional student groups using school facilities for religious purposes, an increase in facility or maintenance costs to districts or schools is likely to be negligible.

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