



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 352 of the 130th G.A.](#)

Date: November 25, 2013

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Reps. Hayes and Thompson

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Establishes regulations for therapeutic wilderness camps

State Fiscal Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) may experience an increase in costs related to rule adoption and the inspection of therapeutic wilderness camps.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- If the Director of Health delegates inspection of a therapeutic wilderness camp to a local board of health, the board of health may experience an increase in costs related to the inspection of the facility.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill exempts therapeutic wilderness camps from certification through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) as a residential childcare facility. The bill includes therapeutic wilderness camps in the definition of "out-of-home care" and requires these camps to certify to the Director of Health that they meet specified minimum standards. Minimum standards include a requirement for a criminal records check for employees of therapeutic wilderness camps and compliance regarding the reporting of child abuse or neglect. The Director of Health will adopt standards which the camps must also comply with regarding sanitation, shelter, fire safety, food preparation and storage, and emergency and disaster preparedness. Additionally, the camps must allow the Director to inspect the facilities and furnish any records or policies of the camp at the Director's request. Inspection of facilities may be delegated to a local board of health. The camps must also establish policies regarding standards for hiring staff, behavioral intervention, record keeping, and handling complaints.

According to a spokesperson for ODJFS, exempting therapeutic wilderness camps from certification by ODJFS would have no fiscal effect on ODJFS or public children's services agencies. ODH may experience an increase in costs related to rule adoption and the inspection of the camps. If the Director of Health delegates inspection of a therapeutic wilderness camp to a local board of health, the board of health may experience an increase in costs related to the inspection of the facility.