



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [S.B. 13 of the 130th G.A.](#)

Date: June 19, 2013

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sen. Gentile

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Increases the required support and service programs for veterans at state institutions of higher education and requires institutions to develop a credit policy for military training and service

State Fiscal Highlights

- Possible increase in administrative expenses for the Board of Regents and the Department of Veterans Services to develop a model for training counselors of veterans.
- Possible increase in administrative expenses for the Board of Regents to facilitate statewide meetings and develop and facilitate communications regarding services to veterans.
- Possible increase in expenses for state institutions of higher education to improve services to student veterans on their campuses and to provide accommodations to campus veterans services officers.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- County veterans services commissions may incur additional expense if they choose to send campus veterans services officers to serve at a state institution.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires the Board of Regents (BOR) and state institutions of higher education, in cooperation with the Department of Veterans Services and county veterans services commissions, to take measures to improve services for student veterans.

Responsibilities of the Chancellor

The bill requires the Chancellor of the Board of Regents to do the following: work with the Department of Veterans Services to develop a model for training counselors of student veterans at state institutions; facilitate regular statewide meetings, including presentations by experts and discussions of best practices, for state institution employees that deal with veterans' issues; and develop and facilitate communications regarding student veterans among state institutions, military bases, and veterans' organizations. These increased responsibilities will increase the administrative burden of the Chancellor and the Department of Veterans Services.

State institutions

The bill requires state institutions of higher education to improve services to student veterans by establishing and implementing, and, as necessary, improving and re-implementing, the following measures:

- Award academic credit to student veterans for military service or training that meets standards of the American Council on Education or equivalent standards;
- Establish and sponsor a student veterans organization;
- Periodically survey student veterans about their needs and challenges;
- Appoint and train faculty members in each degree program to be liaisons for student veterans and provide these faculty members with sensitivity and awareness training;
- Coordinate existing disability services with other state, federal, and private resources for veterans with disabilities;
- Provide counselors trained to work with veterans; and
- Establish a program that provides student veterans with social opportunities and links them to alumni and prospective employers.

Institutions may incur additional expenses to meet these requirements, although many institutions may already be or may be in the process of implementing many of these measures. For example, Executive Order 2013-05K requires the Chancellor, in collaboration with the institutions to conduct a review of current policies regarding the awarding of academic credit for military service and training, with the goal of simplifying the process and awarding more college credit. Institutions also have access

to resources to assist in implementing the measures, which may reduce the costs of the requirements. For example, the American Council on Education publishes the *Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services* that provides credit recommendations for military training and experience.

County veterans services commissions

The bill permits county veterans services commissions to appoint county veteran services officers to serve on campuses of state institutions in their county. County veterans services commissions may incur additional expenses if they choose to do this. State institutions are required to provide accommodations for those officers, and an institution may also incur additional expenses if a county veterans services commission appoints an officer to that institution's campus.