



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Jamie L. Doskocil and other LSC staff

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [S.B. 101 of the 130th G.A.](#)

Date: April 23, 2013

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sen. Burke

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Federal military-related health care benefits

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill would produce savings to the Ohio Medicaid Program every time a veteran who currently receives Medicaid services chooses to receive federal Veteran Affairs (VA) benefits instead. The state pays approximately 36% of the cost of Medicaid services while the federal government pays 100% of the cost of VA benefits.
- The bill would create, at most, minimal annual administrative expenses for the Department of Job and Family Services and the Department of Veterans Services.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill would create, at most, minimal annual administrative expenses for county veterans service commissions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill establishes a process for identifying individuals who are medical assistance recipients that may be eligible to receive federal military-related health care benefits. Specifically, the Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) is required to review information in the public assistance reporting information system to determine if an individual may be eligible for certain federal Veteran Affairs (VA) benefits. If an individual may be eligible, JFS is required to notify the individual of the potential eligibility and to encourage the individual to contact their county veterans service commission for assistance in applying for those federal benefits. JFS is also required to send, not less than monthly, a list of those referred to a veterans service commission to the Department of Veterans Services (DVS).

DVS is required to "develop, institute, and monitor a program" that will assist those individuals referred by JFS in obtaining federal military-related health care benefits. DVS, JFS, and county veterans service commissions are actively working on a similar program. It is also one of DVS's primary missions to actively identify eligible Ohio veterans and connect them with the services and benefits for which they are entitled. This bill would augment these current efforts.

The above-described duties would create, at most, minimal annual administrative expenses for JFS, DVS, and county veterans service commissions.

The bill would produce savings to the Ohio Medicaid Program every time a veteran who currently receives Medicaid services chooses to receive federal VA benefits instead. The state pays approximately 36% of the cost of Medicaid services while the federal government pays 100% of the cost of VA benefits.

On January 29, 2013, the state's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) approved a pilot project to identify veterans on Medicaid residing in nursing homes in order to connect them to VA benefits. OHT approved the use of \$260,000 from the Health Transformation Innovation Fund to fund the project.