



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 508 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Reps. Ryan and Reineke

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Establishes the OhioCorps Pilot Program and makes an appropriation

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill creates the OhioCorps Pilot Program to provide eligible at-risk students living in the southeast region of the state with guidance to a pathway to higher education through mentorship programs operated by certain state institutions of higher education during FY 2020 and FY 2021. The Pilot Program will also provide a one-time college scholarship of \$1,000 for eligible at-risk students who fully participate in a mentorship program, enroll in an eligible state institution of higher education, and meet other requirements.
- The bill provides \$1.5 million for the program through an FY 2019 cash transfer from the GRF to the OhioCorps Fund (Fund 5UK0) and appropriates the transferred cash. It also authorizes the unused balance of the appropriation at the end of FY 2019 to be reappropriated for FY 2020 to support the Pilot Program's mentorship programs.
- The bill may increase the Department of Higher Education's (DHE) administrative costs to establish and operate the program. To support these additional duties, the bill permits DHE to use up to \$50,000 of the \$1.5 million appropriated for the Pilot Program in FY 2019.
- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill creates the OhioCorps Pilot Program to provide eligible at-risk students living in the southeast region of the state with guidance to a pathway to higher education through mentorship programs operated by public universities and community colleges during FY 2020 and FY 2021. The bill defines an "at-risk" student as a primary or secondary school student who is at least 13 years old and who would have an expected family contribution¹ of \$0, or is impacted by family opioid addiction. Each mentorship program must consist of a service-learning component for students enrolled

¹ In general, expected family contribution is a measure of a family's financial strength and is used to determine eligibility for federal student aid.

at each participating institution that will allow those students to mentor and assist at-risk middle and high school students, and their parents, on a variety of topics, including preparing for college and career planning, tutoring, and opioid and drug education programs. Qualifying mentorship programs must provide a stipend, in an amount to be determined by the institution, to student mentors and develop plans for training mentors and partnering with local providers and existing programs, such as AmeriCorps and the Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism.

To incentivize eligible at-risk students in the southeast region of the state to participate in the Pilot Program and ultimately enroll in college, the Pilot Program also provides a one-time college scholarship of \$1,000 for those students for use at a public university or community college. To qualify for the scholarship, a student must fully participate in a mentorship program, enroll in an eligible state institution of higher education, and meet other academic and community service requirements. The Pilot Program will be implemented and administered by the Chancellor of Higher Education.

The bill provides \$1.5 million for the Pilot Program through an FY 2019 cash transfer of that same amount from the GRF to the OhioCorps Fund (Fund 5UK0), which the bill creates. The bill appropriates the transferred cash to Fund 5UK0 line item 235594, OhioCorps Pilot Program, to be used by the Chancellor for administrative costs and to support the creation of mentorship programs at the state institutions of higher education. The bill also authorizes the unexpended, unencumbered balance of line item 235594 at the end of FY 2019 to be reappropriated for FY 2020 to support mentorship programs at the qualifying state institutions of higher education.

The bill may increase the administrative costs of the Department of Higher Education (DHE) to implement and operate the program. The bill earmarks up to \$50,000 in FY 2019 from line item 235594 to support these potential costs. In addition to implementing and administering the program, the bill requires the Chancellor to issue a report to the General Assembly at the end of FY 2021 regarding the implementation and outcomes of the Pilot Program.