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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 673  
133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 673's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Roemer

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

Jason Glover, Budget Analyst, and other LBO staff

### Highlights

- State institutions of higher education that have educator preparation programs may incur increased costs to develop and implement a plan to provide students with alternative experiences, assignments, or instruction in FY 2021 to make up for time missed due to COVID-19 (the Department of Higher Education issued guidance providing flexibility in this regard for the programs for the spring and summer 2020 terms). Ultimately, any additional cost will depend on implementation decisions made by the institutions.
- Extending the period the Board of Nursing must issue temporary registered nurse and licensed practical nurse licenses could result in additional administrative costs for the Board and additional fee revenue, which would be deposited into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90).
- Boards and agencies that issue occupational licenses may experience costs to determine if an applicant or licensee is exempt from continuing education requirements and to address any potential questions.
- The bill prohibits the State Cosmetology and Barber Board from requiring licensees providing hair-related services to obtain an additional license or permit for providing services at a location other than a fixed location. As a result, the Board may see a loss of revenue averaging \$800 or less per year.
- The Department of Higher Education may incur administrative costs to establish a grant program for state and private nonprofit colleges and universities to expedite and increase coursework leading to health care-related credentialing. The bill does not provide an appropriation for the grant program.

## Detailed Analysis

### Overview

The bill specifies a number of provisions across a wide spectrum of subject areas, mostly related to the COVID-19 emergency. Provisions involve alternative instruction in educator preparation programs at higher education institutions, new health care credentialing grants, temporary registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) licenses, continuing education requirements for certain occupational licenses, temporary event salon licenses, and authorization for pharmacists to administer COVID-19-related immunizations and tests. These provisions are discussed below in more detail. The bill also declares an emergency so will go into immediate effect.

### Higher education provisions

#### Alternative instruction in educator preparation programs

The bill requires educator preparation programs to develop and implement a plan to provide students with alternative experiences, assignments, or instruction in FY 2021 to make up for any hours or weeks of clinical experiences missed due to COVID-19. Alternative experiences may include virtual learning, designing lessons and units of instruction, and other appropriate activities that allow students to demonstrate mastery of the expected outcomes of clinical experiences. The Department of Higher Education (DHE) issued guidance for the spring and summer 2020 terms to educator preparation programs in March 2020 regarding students who were at risk of not meeting clinical experience requirements due to efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19. The guidance provides flexibility regarding the number of field experience hours or weeks that candidates must complete in order to be eligible for an education license or endorsement. It also specifies that the programs may provide students with alternative experiences, assignments, or instruction to allow students to demonstrate mastery of expected outcomes as an alternative to traditional experiences.

Presumably, institutions that have complied with DHE's guidance for the 2020 spring and summer terms will likely extend those options into FY 2021 to comply with the bill. An institution may incur some additional costs to extend alternative experiences into or, if the alternatives have yet to be established, to develop and implement them in FY 2021. Any additional costs likely depend on actions already taken and implementation decisions made by the institution.

#### Health care credentialing grants

The bill requires DHE to establish a grant program for public and private, nonprofit institutions of higher education to expedite and increase the offering of coursework that leads to health care-related credentialing. DHE may incur administrative costs to develop guidelines and procedures for the program, including an application process and criteria for awards. The bill does not appropriate funds for the grant program.

### Board of Nursing

The bill extends the period the Board of Nursing must issue temporary RN and LPN licenses, and the period in which they are valid, to July 1, 2021. Current law requires the Board to issue temporary licenses to RN and LPN applicants that meet all other requirements except

for passing their licensure exam, and provides they will be valid until the earlier of 90 days after the duration of the COVID-19 emergency or December 1, 2020. Extending the time period could result in additional administrative costs to issue these licenses but also subsequent fee revenue, which would be deposited into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90). The bill also requires the Board to recognize any clinical experience that an RN or LPN practicing under a temporary license receives and count it towards any outstanding experience needed before being eligible to take their licensure exam. Applicants for the exam must provide evidence of completing requirements, so this provision should pose no additional cost to the Board.

## **Occupational license continuing education requirements**

The bill suspends the requirement that a person complete continuing education requirements to maintain or renew an occupational license from the bill's effective date until December 1, 2020, except when distance learning is allowed. Boards and agencies that issue occupational licenses may experience administrative costs to determine if the applicant or licensee is exempt from these requirements and to address questions.

## **State Cosmetology and Barber Board**

The bill may result in a slight loss of license revenue collected by the State Cosmetology and Barber Board and deposited to the credit of the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90). Under continuing law, an individual wishing to practice cosmetology or barbering (including hair-related services, manicuring, make-up artistry, and other services) at a temporary location must obtain a \$10 temporary event salon license (TESL) from the Board. Between FY 2017 and May 2020, TESLs provided the Board with a total of \$3,190, an average of just under \$800 per year. Notwithstanding continuing law, the bill prohibits the Board from requiring a TESL for individuals that hold a license issued by the Board to provide hair-related services. As a result, a portion of the Board's annual revenue from TESLs would be lost, likely an amount less than \$800 per year.

## **COVID-19 immunizations and testing**

The bill allows: (1) a licensed pharmacist or intern to administer immunizations for COVID-19 and (2) a pharmacist to administer diagnostic tests and antibody tests for COVID-19. Under continuing law, a pharmacist or pharmacy intern who administers immunizations must do so according to rules established by the State Board of Pharmacy and the Board is required to adopt rules including provisions specifying any immunizations that may be administered. A pharmacist or pharmacy intern is subject to the Board's disciplinary procedures. The disciplinary actions include revoking, suspending, or limiting the pharmacist's or intern's identification card; placing the pharmacist's or intern's identification card on probation; refusing to grant or renew the pharmacist's or intern's identification card; or imposing a monetary penalty or forfeiture not to exceed \$500. Any money collected is credited to Fund 4K90, the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund. These rulemaking and enforcement duties are not expected to create any discernible ongoing costs for the Board.