



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Sub. H.B. 96 of the 129th G.A.

Date: December 14, 2011

Status: As Enacted

Sponsor: Reps. Celeste and Brenner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a pilot project to provide early screening and intervention services for children with risk factors for dyslexia

State Fiscal Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) will incur increased administrative costs in establishing, operating, and evaluating the dyslexia pilot project. These costs may be offset by any private or nonstate funds that ODE is able to obtain to support the project.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The school districts that voluntarily choose to participate in the pilot project will incur costs in providing screenings, intervention services, and post-service assessments. They will also incur administrative costs in complying with the bill's reporting requirements. Costs may be offset by funding provided by ODE.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a pilot project to test the delivery of early screening and intervention services for children with risk factors for dyslexia. The project must operate for three full school years beginning with the school year that begins at least three months after the bill's effective date. The Superintendent must select one urban, one suburban, and one rural school district to participate in the project. The bill also requires the Superintendent to evaluate the pilot project and to issue a report to the General Assembly by December 31 of the third school year in which the project is operating.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) may incur administrative costs in establishing, operating, and evaluating the pilot project. The bill does not provide an appropriation for the project, but requires ODE to solicit private and nonstate funds. If ODE is successful in this solicitation, revenues may increase to at least partially offset the increase in costs. The bill also states that ODE must use available appropriations to fund the project.

To be considered for the pilot project, a district must submit a proposal to ODE. Presumably, therefore, participation in the pilot project is voluntary for school districts. The bill requires each participating district to do the following: (1) screen children six years or younger for indications of dyslexia, (2) provide intervention services to children suspected of having dyslexia, (3) administer assessments to determine whether the services have improved students' reading and learning, (4) notify parents that a child, who is suspected of having dyslexia, is eligible to receive reading intervention services to measure the effectiveness of early reading assistance programs, (5) provide parents of children suspected of having dyslexia with certain information, and (6) report annually to ODE about the operation and results of the pilot project. Selected districts may establish a partnership with a library or library system for purposes of the pilot project. Libraries would have the same requirements should they choose to participate in a partnership with the selected districts. To the extent the participating districts and libraries are not currently providing screening, intervention services, and assessments their costs will increase. They may also incur additional administrative costs related to the reporting requirements. Some part of the pilot project costs may be offset by the funding ODE identifies for the project.