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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 526
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Liston and McClain

Jason Hoskins, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Requires that a portion of the amount of child or spousal support collected on behalf of an assistance group participating in Ohio Works First be paid to the assistance group.
- Provides for the assistance group to be paid \$100 of the support if the group has one child and \$200 of the support if the group has two or more children.
- Requires that amount to be disregarded and not included as countable income for the purposes of determining eligibility for or the amount of cash assistance received under Ohio Works First.
- Delays the effective date of these provisions for 18 months.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Pass-through of support payments under Ohio Works First

The bill revises the law governing child and spousal support payments collected on behalf of an assistance group participating in Ohio Works First (a program that provides time-limited cash assistance to low-income families with children). It is one of the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs. An assistance group is a group of individuals treated as a unit for purposes of determining eligibility for and the amount of assistance provided under Ohio Works First.¹

Currently, an assistance group's participation in Ohio Works First constitutes an assignment to the Department of Job and Family Services of any rights members of the group have to child or spousal support from any other person. The Department is required to deposit

¹ R.C. 5107.02(B), not in the bill.

support payments into the Child Support Collections Fund or the Child Support Administrative Fund.²

The bill requires that a portion of the child and spousal support collected on behalf of an assistance group during a month be paid to the assistance group. If the assistance group includes one child, the group is to be paid \$100 of the support collected. If the assistance group includes two or more children, the group is to be paid \$200. All of the remainder is to be used to make cash assistance payments under Ohio Works First.³ Under current law, the entire amount collected must be used to make cash assistance payments.

The bill requires that the amount of support paid to an assistance group be disregarded and not included as countable income for the purposes of determining (1) the amount of cash assistance the group is to receive under Ohio Works First and (2) whether the group is initially eligible to participate in the program and continues to be eligible.⁴

Delayed effective date

The bill delays implementation of these provisions for 18 months following the bill's effective date.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-15-24

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² R.C. 5107.20(B).

³ R.C. 5107.20(D).

⁴ R.C. 5167.20(E). Conforming amendments to R.C. 5167.05(B) and 5107.10(D).