

## Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Mohamed and Williams

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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## Highlights

 The bill appropriates \$350,000 in FY 2027 from the GRF, under the budget of the Ohio Department of Higher Education, to support the Law Student Encouragement Scholarship Pilot Program.

## **Detailed Analysis**

The bill appropriates \$350,000 in FY 2027 from new GRF line item 235440, Law Student Encouragement Scholarship Pilot Program, for the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) to establish the Law Student Encouragement Scholarship Pilot Program to support underrepresented undergraduate students pursuing admission to law school. Under the program, ODHE must distribute the moneys from line item 235440 to the Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA) to award annual scholarships of \$4,000 per student to ten to 20 Ohio resident undergraduate students from groups who are underrepresented in the legal profession and enrolled full time at a baccalaureate degree-granting postsecondary institution in the state. OSBA must also organize events and programming, including one-on-one mentoring to familiarize students with law school and legal careers and provide scholarship recipients free test preparation materials, academic support, and registration for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The bill permits OSBA to use a portion of the funds to employ staff to support the program's operations. By January 30, 2028, OSBA must submit a report to ODHE and certain members of the General Assembly that includes an accurate and detailed account of the pilot program, including its outcomes, revenues and expenses, and use of state funds.