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H.B. 119
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Williams and Santucci

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

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Highlights

- School districts, community schools, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) schools may incur costs ranging from minimal to tens of thousands of dollars annually, depending on a district or school's circumstances, to organize and run an exit orientation program to prepare eleventh and twelfth grade students to enter the workforce, obtain marketable skills, or enroll in higher education or military service.
- The Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) may incur minimal costs related to organizing and running the programs.
- Local workforce development boards and OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) centers will incur costs to participate in the planning and preparation of the high school exit orientation programs.

Detailed Analysis

Overview

The bill requires traditional school districts, community schools, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) schools to host an exit orientation program annually in September.¹ The program is designed to prepare eleventh and twelfth grade students to enter the workforce, obtain marketable skills, or enroll in higher education or military service. The bill requires schools to permit representatives from the fields above to attend the program to present information on jobs, training, apprenticeships, internships, or other post-high school

¹ The bill's requirements also apply to college-preparatory boarding schools. However, none of these schools currently operate in Ohio.

topics. Each local workforce development board must participate in planning and conducting the programs in its local area. Also, each OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) center operator must ensure that the information being presented is aligned with the needs and opportunities of the local labor market, providing each school with information about the needs of the local job market. Finally, the bill designates September as “Workforce Development Month.”

Fiscal effects

The monetary cost and administrative workload needed to support this program will vary by district and school depending on enrollment and staffing levels. While the bill does not specify the personnel responsible for running the program at each district or school, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) assumes that most districts would delegate this task to school counselors. According to BASA, many districts, especially those in small rural and large urban areas, are experiencing staffing shortages with respect to school counselors. As a result, some districts may need to hire staff or reallocate certain staff and resources to implement this program effectively. Depending on the extent of a district or school’s staffing and resource constraints and implementation decisions, the bill may result in costs ranging from minimal to tens of thousands of dollars annually.

Local workforce development boards and OMJ centers will incur costs to actively participate and conduct high school exit orientation programs and to align their information to local labor market needs. The resources available to local boards and OMJ centers vary across development areas, so costs will also vary. Additionally, the size of the population and the number of high schools served is another factor impacting costs. However, most local boards and OMJ centers currently provide some work-related activities for students. For instance, the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP) is a program administered through OMJ centers using federal funding from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program to provide low-income young adults with employment services. There are also local partnerships between school systems and the local boards/OMJ centers that may already require a local board presence at local school districts. These pre-existing relationships may help to minimize some administrative costs as these exit orientation programs are initially organized. However, the total costs will depend on the extent the services each local board/OMJ center currently provides differs from the bill’s requirements. Federal funds, including WIOA funds, make up a large portion of local boards/OMJ centers funding. WIOA funds consist of three main funding streams: youth, adult, and dislocated workers. Seventy-five percent of Youth WIOA funds must be spent on out-of-school youth. As a result, only 25% of WIOA Youth funds can be used for in-school youth. So, it is possible that additional funding sources would be necessary for some local boards.