OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

H.B. 245
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Somani and Grim

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SUMMARY

- For the Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program, removes restrictions related to the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant funds, due to prior legislation that moved funding for the program from TANF to general revenue funds (GRF).
- Expands the program to provide services for pregnant women, parents, and other relatives caring for children five years or younger, as opposed to 12 months or younger under current law; also expands the program to women who may become pregnant.
- Expands services under the program to include the following: counseling on childbirth, abortion, and adoption; pregnancy tests, family planning, and contraceptive services; and preventative care services.
- Requires entities that receive funding through the program to complete an annual report detailing the services provided by the entity.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program

The bill makes several changes to the Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program. As discussed in more detail below, the changes are both substantive program changes, as well as changes related to prior legislation that moved the funding source for the program.

Changes related to prior funding move

In 2013, the program was established to provide Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant funds to certain private, nonprofit entities that provide services to pregnant women and parents or other relatives caring for children under 12 months of age that promote childbirth, parenting, and alternatives to abortion, and meet one of the four purposes of the TANF block grant. In 2022, the General Assembly moved appropriations for the program from

TANF to general revenue funds (GRF).[1] That act did not amend the Revised Code provisions that govern the program, including its classification as a TANF program and restrictions related to the use of TANF funds. To account for the change in funding source, the bill moves the program out of TANF in the Revised Code and also removes restrictions related to the use of TANF funds.[2]

Additional program changes

Services provided

Under current law, the program is for parents or caretakers of children 12 months or younger. The bill expands the program to provide services for pregnant women, parents, and other relatives caring for children five years old and younger, and individuals who may become pregnant. Services may include those related to pregnancy and parenting, including: counseling on childbirth, abortion, and adoption; pregnancy tests, family planning, and contraceptive services; and preventative care services such as cytologic screening and screening for sexually transmitted infections.[3]

The bill continues to authorize the Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to enter into agreements with entities seeking to provide services under the program. To enter into an agreement with ODJFS, the entity's primary purpose must be to provide the services mentioned above. This is a change from current law, which requires the entity's primary purpose to be promoting childbirth, rather than abortion.[4]

Entities also are required to provide at least four of the following services:[5]

- Clothing, diapers and other baby supplies, food, furniture, and shelter;
- Counseling on options available to the individual, including, for a pregnant person, counseling or referrals related to abortion, adoption, and parenting a baby;
- Postpartum recovery and parenting classes;
- Health care through licensed health care professionals, including contraceptives and reproductive health care, through referrals if necessary;

[1] R.C. 5101.80 and 5101.801, with conforming changes in R.C. 3125.18, 5101.35, 5101.805, and 5153.13; see also, H.B. 45 of the 134th General Assembly (PDF), which is available on the General Assembly's website: legislature.ohio.gov.

[2] R.C. 5101.91, renumbered by the bill from R.C. 5101.804. Note that since H.B. 245 was introduced, H.B. 96 (the biennial operating budget) moved several programs, including the Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program, to the Department of Children and Youth and renumbered those sections to Chapter 5180 of the Revised Code. H.B. 245 will require an amendment to conform to those changes.

[3] R.C. 5101.91(A).

[4] R.C. 5101.91(B)(2).

[5] R.C. 5101.91(B)(3).

- Sexual education, including information on abstinence and a full range of contraception options;
- Any other supportive services, programs, or related outreach.

The bill removes a prohibition in current law that an entity receiving funding through the program is prohibited from charging for services provided.[6] It also removes a prohibition that entities not be involved in or associated with any abortion activities, including providing abortion counselling or referrals to abortion clinics, performing abortion related medical procedures, or engaging in pro-abortion advertising.[7]

Program report

The bill requires entities that receive funds under the program to complete an annual report on the services the entity provided. The report must specify the percentage of funds that were used for services and related supports, health care services, and administrative costs. The report must be provided to the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Department of Health. The Department of Health must make the report available to the public on the Department's website.[8]

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-23-25

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[6] R.C. 5101.91(B)(4) and (5).

[7] R.C. 5101.91(C).

[8] R.C. 5101.91(D).