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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 431
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 431's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Williams

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill appropriates \$5.0 million from the GRF in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 for the University of Toledo (UTO) to provide free training beginning in calendar year 2026 to public schools on how to use its FOCUS youth human trafficking risk screening tool and to create and maintain an online portal for tracking the results.
- Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, the administrative workload of public schools will increase to annually screen each student using the screening tool and report the results to UTO. Any additional costs are unlikely to exceed minimal.

Detailed Analysis

The bill appropriates \$5.0 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 from new GRF line item 235430, Human Trafficking Screening, under the budget of the Ohio Department of Higher Education, to support use of the University of Toledo's (UTO) FOCUS youth human trafficking risk assessment tool (screening tool) in public schools statewide. Created by UTO's Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute, the screening tool is a questionnaire designed to identify children at risk for, or currently involved in, human trafficking.¹ The bill allocates the appropriations to UTO to provide free training to public schools on how to use the screening tool and to create and maintain an online portal to track screening results, and compile and publicize, without student names or personally identifiable information, the reported data. The bill requires UTO provide the training beginning in calendar year 2026 and to make the screening tool available to all public schools in digital and physical form.

¹ See the [Human Trafficking Risk Assessment Tool](#) on UTO's website: utoledo.edu.

Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, the bill requires school districts and other public schools to annually screen each student using UTO's screening tool, and to report the results of these screenings to UTO. Districts and schools have discretion with respect to when the screenings are conducted during the school year. The administrative workload of public schools will increase to conduct the screenings and report the results. According to a spokesperson from the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, the effects on administrative workload will vary by school, mostly depending on a school's ability to absorb the additional work. Ultimately, any additional costs incurred by a school are unlikely to exceed minimal.