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H.B. 437
(1_136_1398-3)
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 437's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: In House Health

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Rader and Schmidt

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) will experience costs to establish a professional development module, as well as information technology (IT) costs to facilitate the database storage of module completion by specified health care providers. Module development costs will depend on ODH's method of implementation. IT costs will depend on data volume, retention duration, and security needs.
- The Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) may incur printing and mailing costs, potentially in the thousands of dollars, to distribute guidelines and other relevant educational materials regarding sudden cardiac arrest to school districts throughout the state.
- The State Medical Board and the Ohio Board of Nursing may realize eLicensing costs to include the module completion check box on renewal applications for certain professionals, as well as costs to take any necessary disciplinary action for violations of the bill.
- Any Medicaid providers who violate the bill's requirements will be prohibited from seeking payment from the Medicaid Program for any related examinations.
- School districts may incur minimal, if any, costs to accept the filing of preparticipation physical evaluation forms in addition to any other documentation they already collect from student athletes.

Detailed Analysis

Student and youth athletes

The bill expands Ohio's "Lindsay's Law" which relates to sudden cardiac arrest in student and youth athletes by prohibiting a student or youth athlete from participating in an athletic activity unless the athlete has a physical examination performed by a physician, advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), or physician assistant. Under the bill, the provider of the examination must fill out the preparticipation physical evaluation form, which must be created by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), for submission to the student's school. The bill states that preparticipation physical examinations are valid for 13 months.

ODH will realize minimal costs to create the required form. This requirement will likely result in minimal, if any, additional costs to school districts and other public schools. Currently, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) requires athletic participation forms for students in grades 7-12 to be signed by a physician, APRN, or physician assistant, and filed with the school principal or designee before any student can participate in a practice.¹ Under the bill, students and their families will be responsible for having their medical providers fill out the ODH form in addition to any required OHSAA form, and schools will be required to maintain records of all submitted ODH forms in addition to OHSAA forms.

Rulemaking

The bill requires ODH and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to jointly adopt rules as necessary to implement the bill's provisions and requires those rules to follow nationally recognized, evidence-based guidelines recommended by organizations focused on pediatric cardiovascular care. ODH and DEW could realize minimal costs to promulgate these rules.

Guidelines and educational materials

Continuing law requires ODH and DEW, in consultation with the Ohio chapter of the American College of Cardiology and an interscholastic conference or an organization that regulates interscholastic athletic competition and conducts interscholastic athletic events, to develop and post on their respective websites guidelines and other relevant materials that provide educational information about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. The bill requires DEW to distribute copies of these guidelines and educational materials free of charge to all school districts in Ohio, and to any other school on request. However, the bill does not specify whether DEW must distribute printed copies to school districts, or if it may distribute the guidelines and educational materials electronically. If DEW distributes printed copies to each of the 611 traditional school districts in the state, it may incur printing and mailing costs potentially in the thousands of dollars, depending on the quantity of materials produced. Currently, State Printing and Mail Services within the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) charges 9¢ per black and white impression and 21¢ per color impression, with additional charges for folding of \$10 per 1,000 units and further fees for packaging and mailing. Electronic

¹ Ohio High School Athletic Association bylaw 3-5-1, which may be accessed under the "Other Eligibility Documents" heading at ohsaa.org/eligibility.

distribution may cost DEW less, but districts may incur printing costs if they choose to do so, or may also distribute the pamphlets electronically.

Screening module

The bill also requires ODH, in consultation with DEW, to establish a childhood cardiac screening professional development module to increase the assessment skills of health care professionals who perform annual physical examinations. The module may be developed by ODH in accordance with various requirements specified in the bill, or ODH may adopt the Student-Athlete Cardiac Assessment Professional Development Module created by the New Jersey Commissioners of Education and Health. ODH will experience costs to establish the professional development module in consultation with DEW. DEW may also incur a minimal increase in administrative costs. Costs for the module's establishment will depend on ODH's method of implementation. It appears that New Jersey's module is available for free on its Department of Education website. Health care providers put in their name and national provider identification to receive a certificate of completion.²

The bill requires the module to be posted on the ODH and DEW websites. ODH must also facilitate the database storage of completion of the module by health care professionals, and may coordinate with the health care professional licensing boards in doing so and must keep the records for ten years. As a result, ODH will likely experience IT costs to facilitate the database storage of the module completion by health care professionals. Costs will likely depend on a number of factors including the volume of data, retention duration, and security needs.

Lastly, the bill requires the State Medical Board and the Ohio Board of Nursing to include a check box on renewal applications for advance practice registered nurse (APRNs), physician assistants, and physicians to certify completion of the module and reading of the required pamphlet. The State Medical Board and the Ohio Board of Nursing may realize an increase in eLicensing costs to include the completion check box on the renewal applications. These costs will likely depend on current available storage and eLicensing capability and the number of health care professionals who complete the module.

ODH annual report

Under the bill, ODH must complete an annual report on outcomes related to the screening module and health care professional reports that the bill requires, as discussed below. The report must be posted on ODH's website and a copy provided to the public on request. ODH will experience minimal costs to complete the required annual report.

Health care professional obligations

Beginning one year after the bill's effective date, each APRN, physician assistant, and physician who performs annual physical examinations on individuals who are 19 or younger or who performs preparticipation examinations for student athletes, must do all of the following: (1) complete the evaluation form for each examination, (2) at least once every four years, complete the professional development module adopted by ODH, and retain a hard copy of the

² See New Jersey's [Student Athlete Cardiac Assessment Professional Development Module](https://www.nj.gov/education), which can be accessed by conducting a keyword "Student Athlete Cardiac Module" search on the New Jersey of Education's website: [nj.gov/education](https://www.nj.gov/education).

certificate of completion, (3) at least once every four years, read the guidelines and other relevant educational materials developed by ODH and DEW, and (4) annually report to ODH the total number of preparticipation physical examination forms completed, and the total number of cardiology referrals resulting from those examinations. The State Medical Board and the Ohio Board of Nursing, which regulate these professionals, may experience an increase in costs related to any disciplinary action taken for violations of the bill.

Failure to comply – Medicaid

An APRN, physician assistant, or physician who fails to complete the module or read the guidelines and other relevant educational materials, and who is a Medicaid provider, is prohibited from seeking payment from the Medicaid Program for any examination to which the failure applies. The provider is also prohibited from collecting or billing the Medicaid recipient for such an examination. As APRNs, physician assistants, or physicians who are Medicaid providers and fail to comply with the bill's provisions are prohibited from seeking payment from the Medicaid Program for any examination to which the failure applies, there is a possibility for some slight cost decreases for the state's Medicaid Program. The amount of any decrease would depend on the number of violations, and the number of examinations the Medicaid Program therefore denied reimbursement for.

Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes

The bill's fiscal effects remain unchanged under the substitute bill (I_136_1398-3).³

³ For comparison purposes, the previous bill is the As Introduced bill with AM1281, the fiscal effects of which are addressed in the As Pending in House Health fiscal note dated November 17, 2025.