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Office

H.B. 578
(1_136_2283-2)
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 578's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: In House Health

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Creech and Schmidt

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- Government-owned hospitals and local health departments may experience an increase in costs to report alpha-gal syndrome and possibly any other diseases and conditions specified by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) that are not already required to be reported by the Ohio Administrative Code. Costs will depend on the number of such cases.
- ODH may also experience a minimal increase in costs to report any additional data received or to update the Ohio Disease Reporting System.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires the following entities and individuals to promptly report to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) the existence of alpha-gal syndrome, as well as diseases that can spread, directly or indirectly, from person to person; foodborne and waterborne diseases; and zoonotic and vector-borne diseases, including tick-related diseases and conditions: (1) boards of health, (2) health authorities or officials, (3) health care providers in localities without health authorities or officials, and (4) coroners or medical examiners. Under the bill, ODH is to specify the diseases or conditions to be reported. The bill also removes specific references to Asiatic cholera, diphtheria, typhus or typhoid fever, and yellow fever as diseases to be reported. Failure to report under the bill is a minor misdemeanor on a first offense and a fourth degree misdemeanor on any subsequent offense.

Currently, the Ohio Administrative Code outlines numerous diseases that must be reported.¹ Reports can be made directly into the Ohio Disease Reporting System, which is a disease surveillance system that tracks reportable conditions throughout the state. Local health departments have access to the system, as do health care facilities and laboratories that have requested to use the system. If a health care facility or laboratory does not have access, the entity can use a confidential form to report this data. Because of this, any impacts are anticipated to be minimal. However, government-owned hospitals and local health departments may experience an increase in costs to report on alpha-gal syndrome or additional diseases and conditions specified by ODH and to submit any necessary follow-up reports or information. ODH may also experience an increase in costs to report on the data received or if necessary, to update the Ohio Disease Reporting System. Additionally, if any violations of the bill's requirements result in court action, there could be minimal costs to local courts. However, the number of cases is likely to be few, if any.

Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes

The substitute bill, I_136_2283-2, removes certain specific disease references as diseases reportable to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and instead, requires the following to be reported, as specified by the Director of Health: diseases that can spread, directly or indirectly, from person to person; foodborne and waterborne diseases; and zoonotic and vector-borne diseases, including tick-related diseases and conditions. However, the substitute bill retains the As Introduced provision that requires alpha-gal syndrome to be reported. Under the As Introduced version, it appeared that all but two (alpha-gal syndrome and southern tick-associated rash illness) of the diseases or conditions included to be reported to ODH were already required under the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). However, as mentioned above, the substitute bill provides that the Director of Health will specify the diseases to be reported. Any costs to government-owned hospitals, local health departments, and ODH will depend on the diseases specified versus those that are currently required under the OAC. Any costs to report southern tick-associated rash illness under the As Introduced version will not be realized unless the illness is specified by ODH as reportable.

Additionally, the substitute bill revises existing law authorizing disease reporting information that does not identify an individual to be released in summary, statistical, or aggregate form, by removing the reference to summary form. There should be no fiscal impact to ODH associated with this change.

¹ [Know Your ABCs: A Quick Guide to Reportable Infectious Diseases in Ohio \(PDF\)](#), which can be found by conducting a keyword “ABCs” search on ODH’s website, odh.ohio.gov.