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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 666**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 666's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. T. Mathews

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

Jason Glover, Senior Budget Analyst

### **Highlights**

- The Ohio Department of Higher Education's (ODHE) expenditures may increase, perhaps in the tens of millions of dollars range, for it and the Ohio Federal Research Network (OFRN) to establish and administer the Ohio Tech Institute. Ultimately, costs will depend on any future appropriations, implementation decisions by ODHE and OFRN, and the scope of the Institute's operations.

### **Detailed Analysis**

The bill requires the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), in partnership with the Ohio Federal Research Network (OFRN),<sup>1</sup> to establish and administer the Ohio Tech Institute to strengthen Ohio's innovation ecosystem by streamlining access to federal technology, fostering cross-sector collaboration, and supporting funding opportunities for colleges and universities, businesses, and other partners. Under the bill, the Institute must:

- Create and operate a statewide database and service platform to consolidate and provide access to federal tech-transfer opportunities to any Ohio college and university, private or nonprofit company, and government entity that chooses to participate;
- Regularly distribute refined lists of available technologies to participating members;

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<sup>1</sup> According to its [website](#), OFRN first received state funding through ODHE in 2015 "to create a collaborative research hub designed to expand Ohio's cutting-edge research capability and create new economic opportunities for Ohio in the areas of defense, aerospace, energy, and health."

- Coordinate partnerships between participants using these technologies for commercialization or when exploring further collaboration; and
- Provide, through OFRN, coaching and support for participants seeking federal matching funding.

ODHE expenditures may increase, perhaps in the tens of millions of dollars range, for the Department and OFRN to establish and operate the Ohio Tech Institute. Ultimately, costs will depend on any future appropriations from the General Assembly (the bill does not provide appropriations for the Institute), how ODHE and OFRN implement the Institute's responsibilities under the bill, and the scope of the Institute's operations. OFRN is currently supported by GRF line item 235578, Federal Research Network, with appropriations of approximately \$5.1 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027, under the budget of ODHE. According to a spokesperson from OFRN, costs to operate the Institute could be significant, perhaps as high as \$50 million annually, based on several factors determined by ODHE and OFRN in establishing and operating the Institute. OFRN indicates some of these factors may include the number of personnel that may need to be employed to support the Institute; any grants, research and development projects, or industry seed funding that the Institute may offer; potential statewide competitions that are held to design technology that supports federal partners; and statewide meetings that may need to be conducted on a regular basis. ODHE anticipates continuing to serve as fiscal agent for OFRN and to assist it in administering the Institute.