OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

www.lsc.ohio.gov

Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

H.B. 863
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for H.B. 863's Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. A. Mathews

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

Jake Graffius, Budget Analyst

Highlights

- Government-operated health care facilities may realize substantial initial costs to purchase the necessary supplies to ensure at least 50% of a health care facility's operating threshold consists of reusable infection prevention textiles, if the facility does not already meet that requirement. The scale will depend on the number and type of textiles that need to be purchased by each facility. There will also be additional costs to contract with laundry services.
- It is possible that some government-operated health care facilities may realize savings over time with the use of reusable textiles. However, this will vary from facility to facility and depend on a number of factors such as how often textiles can be reused.
- The departments of Behavioral Health (DBH), Developmental Disabilities (DODD), and Health (ODH) will realize costs to develop a procedure whereby individuals may report violations of the bill's provisions, as well as to investigate any complaints regarding these violations.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires at least 50% of a health care facility's operating threshold of items maintained to protect against the transfer of microorganisms by bodily fluids to consist of reusable infection prevention textiles. An infection prevention textile is defined to mean a fabric-based item that is designed, throughout its useful lifespan, to be laundered and returned in a hygienically clean state to a health care facility for reuse in order to safely and hygienically protect patients, health care providers, and the medical environment by limiting the transfer of microorganisms by blood or other bodily fluids. This includes personal protective equipment (PPE) like gowns, hoods, and boot covers, among several other fabric-based items like curtains

and bedding. The bill requires that reuse of the textiles must be consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance. In reusing textiles, each health care facility must regularly rotate its stock of materials that are being (1) used, (2) returned to a laundry facility, (3) processed by a hygienically clean certified facility, and (4) returned to the health care facility for reuse. The bill requires each health care facility to maintain records demonstrating the percentage of its infection prevention textiles available for reuse and to make those records available to the state department responsible for licensing the facility. The bill requires the departments of Behavioral Health (DBH), Developmental Disabilities (DODD), and Health (ODH) to each develop a procedure whereby individuals may report violations of the bill's provisions.

The bill's provisions apply to several health care facility types. Most of these are regulated by ODH. However, specified facilities regulated by DBH and DODD are also impacted. Several government-operated health care facilities fall within the requirements of the bill. DBH operates six regional psychiatric hospitals. DODD operates eight residential facilities throughout the state known as developmental centers. In addition, there are other state and locally operated facilities, such as government-owned hospitals and county homes that are subject to the bill.

Fiscal effects

Government-operated health care facilities could realize substantial initial costs to purchase the necessary supplies to reach the 50% ratio, if the facility does not already meet this requirement. It is difficult to determine how many facilities may meet the requirements since the bill includes pillow cases and bath and hand towels, as well as other items, in its definition of reusable infection prevention textiles. These are items that may currently be reused more often – at least by certain types of facilities. There will also be additional costs to contract with laundry services, as well as inventory costs. Costs to government-operated health care facilities will vary on a case-by-case basis depending on the type of facility and the facility's current practices regarding reusable and disposable textiles. For instance, a hospital has more rapid turnover than a long-term facility, so a long-term facility may currently use more reusable textiles.

Reusable infection prevention textiles generally have higher upfront unit costs than disposable textiles. However, reusable textiles are also more durable and can be used multiple times before deteriorating. There is some evidence that the use of reusable textiles in certain contexts may lower costs over time. For example, one study by the University of California of a tertiary hospital system in California projected annual savings of about $2,800 for switching from disposable surgical gowns to reusable ones.[1] But these results only focus on surgical gowns, so the results are too narrow to imply savings for a general switch to reusable infection textiles. Another study conducted by researchers performed a cost comparison of disposable and reusable surgical drapes at a hospital with 1,000 beds in Ankara, Turkey. The study found that reusable drapes were more cost efficient. However, the total cost savings depends on the number of times the surgical drapes could be reused. The study concluded that cost savings would vary for each hospital and for each surgical center within the same hospital since usage and waste habits differ.[2] This study was narrow in focus as well. Therefore, it is still unknown what impact government-operated health care facilities would see over time. Because the bill

[1] See Transition to Reusable Surgical Gowns at a Hospital System.

[2] See Reusable Versus Disposable Surgical Drapes: A Cost-Benefit Analysis.

applies to several different health care facilities with differing needs, long-term costs or savings are still indeterminate.

Lastly, DBH, DODD, and ODH will realize costs to develop a procedure whereby individuals may report violations of the bill's provisions, as well as to investigate any complaints regarding violations.