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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

H.B. 129
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 129's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Hoops and Sobecki

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill appropriates \$5.0 million in each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 from the GRF for the Department of Higher Education to provide a combination of need-based grants and loans to qualified students enrolled in certified commercial driver's license schools. The bill creates the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Fund to serve as a revolving loan fund for the program.

Detailed Analysis

The bill appropriates \$5.0 million in each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 from GRF appropriation item 235557, Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program, in the Department of Higher Education (DHE) budget to provide a combination of need-based grants and loans to qualified students enrolled in certified commercial driver's license (CDL) schools. Under the program, the grant portion of the award is equal to 50% of the remaining state cost of attendance after the student's federal Pell grant and expected family contribution (EFC) are applied to the student's instructional and general fees, while the loan portion is equal to the grant amount. The bill specifies that these awards are in addition to any aid the student receives under the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) Program, which provides need-based financial aid to students. However, the loan amount is decreased by the OCOG amount a student receives. To receive an award under the bill, a student must commit to residing and being employed in Ohio for a minimum of one year upon completion of a certified CDL program. Students receiving a grant must sign a promissory note payable to the state in the event that a student fails to complete a CDL program or completes the CDL program but does not meet the bill's residency and employment requirement.

The bill creates the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Fund to serve as a revolving loan fund for the program. This fund will receive loan repayments, which will be used to support additional loans and grants and DHE's administrative expenses related to the program.

The terms and conditions for loans as well as the requirements for certification of a CDL school and any additional eligibility criteria that the Chancellor of Higher Education determines is necessary for program participants will be developed by the Chancellor in rules. The administrative responsibilities of DHE will increase to develop and adopt these rules and to administer the program.