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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 353  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 353's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Click and Miranda

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### Highlights

- State institutions of higher education may incur minimal increases in administrative costs to develop or update their policies regarding religious accommodations for students.

### Detailed Analysis

The bill directs state institutions of higher education to adopt a policy that reasonably accommodates the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of individual students with regard to all examinations or other academic requirements and absences for reasons of faith or conscience. Instructors must also include in each course syllabus a statement regarding the institution's policy and accept a student's request for alternative accommodations. Each institution is required to post a copy of the policy and a Department of Higher Education-developed, nonexhaustive list of major religious holidays or festivals for the next two academic years in a prominent location on its website.

According to LBO research, it appears many institutions already have religious accommodation policies in place that meet, or are similar to, the one required under the bill. Several institutions, including, but not limited to, [Ohio University](#), [University of Cincinnati](#), and [Cuyahoga Community College](#), have specific religious accommodation policies. Other institutions, including [Ohio State University](#), [University of Toledo](#), and [Kent State University](#), specifically list "religious observance" as a legitimate reason for an excused absence in their guides and handbooks. To the extent that they do not currently meet the bill's requirements, institutions may incur a minimal administrative cost to develop or update their policies and post them online.