



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Nicholas J. Blaine

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 309 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Reported by Senate Judiciary

Sponsor: Reps. Gonzales and Rezabek

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Prohibits blindness from being used to deny or limit custody, visitation, adoption, etc.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Courts may experience a minimal cost to determine if a person's blindness may pose a detrimental impact to a minor and whether support services could alleviate the impact in cases involving custody, visitation, or other care arrangements.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill specifies that a person's blindness generally cannot be used as a reason to limit custody, parenting time, visitation, adoption, or services as a guardian or foster caregiver to a minor; exceptions are made if the blindness could threaten the health, safety, or welfare of the minor. The bill permits a court, public children services agency, or other relevant entity to consider a detrimental impact determination and establishes requirements that a court is to follow when making such a determination. As part of the process, the bill requires a court to permit the blind person to demonstrate how supportive services could alleviate any detrimental impact on the minor and permits the court to order supportive services to alleviate possible impacts. The court must make specific written findings of fact and conclusions if it is found that supportive services cannot alleviate detrimental impacts. Local courts could realize a minimal increase in costs as a result of this provision.