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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

S.B. 6
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 6's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Coley and Hottinger

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill may reduce costs associated with providing foster care services if it results in additional children being allowed to stay with host families.

Detailed Analysis

Summary of provisions with fiscal effects

The bill establishes conditions under which a child can be allowed to stay with a host family on a temporary basis when one or both child's parents or guardians are unable to care for the child. Host families are separate from foster care providers and are exempt from certification requirements or supervision from the Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) that generally apply to foster care providers. The bill further specifies that host families must enter into a host family agreement with a qualified organization's assistance and that the qualified organization cannot be eligible to receive funds through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.¹ Additionally, the bill adds employees of a qualified organization to the list of mandatory reporters for child abuse and neglect.

Fiscal effect

The bill may reduce costs for public children services agencies (PCSAs) if it reduces the number of children that are placed in foster care; the bill does not allow federal Title IV-E funds to go to qualified organizations that establish agreements for host families. Any savings will depend on the number of children that are able to remain with host families in lieu of a foster family.

¹ These federal funds are primarily used for foster care.

Foster providers, in addition to the cost of training and certification, are eligible to receive foster care maintenance payments to defray the costs of caring for a placed child. The rates, effective September 30, 2018, range from a statewide minimum of \$10 per day to a maximum of \$200 per day.² During FY 2018, ODJFS reported that more than 15,000 children were in foster care on any given day and that actual spending (both state and federal) on foster care services totaled about \$271.0 million.³ In addition to these expenditures, county PCSAs may pay a portion of the nonfederal share of foster care placement costs using state child protection allocations. Costs in excess of amounts provided from state and federal sources are also paid by PCSAs.

Additionally, adding employees of qualified organizations to the list of mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect may result in an increase in costs to PCSAs if it results in an increase in the number of reports. Any expected increase will likely be minimal.

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² Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Family, Children and Adult Services Manual Procedure Letter 337. Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance (FCM) Celings Revision. <http://emanuals.jfs.ohio.gov/FamChild/FCASM/FCASPL/FCASPL-337.stm>.

³ Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Annual Report: State Fiscal Year 2018. <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/num/JFS08017/pdf/>.