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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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S.B. 288
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 288's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate Education

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Gavarone

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Nick Ciolli, Budget Analyst

The bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions. The bill generally prohibits a public or nonpublic school or an interscholastic athletics conference or organization from adopting a regulation that prohibits or creates an obstruction to wearing religious apparel when competing or participating in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities. The bill's prohibition applies to requirements that participants obtain advanced approval, written waivers, or any other permission. An administrator or official of an event may limit wearing religious apparel if a legitimate danger to participants is identified. However, the administrator or official of the event must offer all reasonable accommodations to the participant. The bill authorizes a civil action for damages, injunctive relief, or any other appropriate relief against anyone who violates the bill's prohibition. Nevertheless, school districts, schools, interscholastic athletic conferences or organizations and their employees are provided immunity for money damages in any civil action resulting from carrying out the duties of the bill, except in cases of willful or wanton misconduct. This immunity is in addition to any other immunity or defense that may apply. The bill defines "religious apparel" as headwear, clothing, jewelry, or other coverings in line with a sincerely held religious belief.