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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

S.B. 350
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 350's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Brenner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

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Highlights

- The bill may increase FY 2021 student transportation costs for school districts that provide or intend to provide public transportation vouchers for students in grades K-8.
- The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) may incur additional administrative costs to monitor school district compliance with the bill's provisions.

Detailed Analysis

School districts that provide public transportation vouchers for students in grades K-8 (or intend on providing them) may incur increased transportation costs due to the bill's prohibition on such vouchers for the 2020-2021 school year. The bill's fiscal effects may be limited, however, as students receiving transportation by public transit are presumably older students for the most part, generally either in high school or possibly middle school. In FY 2020, five school districts accounted for nearly all of the students transported by public transit statewide: Akron City School District (CSD), Cincinnati CSD, Cleveland Municipal School District, Dayton CSD, and Toledo CSD. Of these districts, all but Cleveland limited public transit to high school students. Cleveland's policy appears to provide students in grades 7-12 with the option of receiving public transit bus passes for travel to and from school.

Transporting students via district-owned or contracted buses generally costs more per rider than transportation services provided by public transit agencies. As a point of reference, the statewide average cost per rider for the 37 school districts with students who utilized public transit was \$369 in FY 2019 (the most recent data available), while the average cost per rider for traditional yellow bus service was \$1,047. Although, the marginal cost of adding riders to existing yellow buses and routes is likely lower. See [LSC's bill analysis](#) for more detail on the bill's provisions and background information on student transportation.

Additionally, the Ohio Department of Education's administrative costs may increase to monitor school district compliance. If a school district is not complying, the bill requires the Department to deduct from the district's transportation aid payment the total daily amount for each day the district is not in compliance.