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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

H.B. 4
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Plummer and Manchester

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

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Highlights

- Public children services agencies (PCSAs) will experience additional costs in order to meet the bill's requirements for memoranda of understanding (MOUs) established between PCSAs and other local agencies.
- The Department of Job and Family Services will experience additional costs to audit the MOUs annually.

Detailed Analysis

The bill makes numerous changes to the law affecting memoranda of understanding (MOUs) established between public children services agencies (PCSAs) and public officials and entities. Specifically, the bill establishes an annual review process for each county's MOU. As part of this process the bill requires annually that each MOU be resigned and submitted to the respective county board of commissioners for approval and meet certain requirements. This will increase administrative work for many PCSAs and some of the public entities that enter into the MOUs.

The bill creates requirements for the MOUs and also requires the Department of Job and Family Services to create a model memorandum that provides guidance to meet the bill's requirements. Additionally, ODJFS will be required to audit each MOU annually for compliance and maintain a list of counties meeting the requirements on its website. Currently, the Department has little involvement with these memoranda; both the Department and PCSAs will experience additional costs related to updating MOUs and going through the annual audit.

Additionally, the bill requires PCSAs to notify law enforcement when it receives a report of child abuse and neglect. According to the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, PCSAs in metropolitan areas can receive thousands of these reports each year. This could increase costs

for PCSAs in order to provide the information; local law enforcement could experience costs depending on if they investigate additional reports.