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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

H.B. 8
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 8's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Swearingen and Carruthers

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

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Highlights

- Districts and schools may incur minimal administrative costs to comply with the parental notification and review policies required by the bill for certain sexuality-related instruction and school health care services.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires public schools, including school districts, community schools, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) schools, to develop and adopt parental notification and review policies regarding certain sexuality-related content and student health care. In general, the costs for districts and schools to adopt and implement such policies likely are minimal.

The bill requires districts and schools to adopt policies that require schools to do the following:

- Ensure that certain sexuality-related content defined by the bill is age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate, notify parents of any instructional materials that include such content, and allow the parents to request a student's excusal from such instruction in favor of an alternative assignment.
- Notify parents of any change in a student's services, including counseling services, or monitoring related to mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or the school's ability to provide a safe and supporting learning environment.
- Prohibit district personnel from encouraging students to withhold information concerning health or well-being from their parents.

- Notify parents of each health care service offered at the student's school and their option to withhold consent or decline any specified service.
- Notify parents of their right to file a written concern with the district and school and establish a process to resolve the concern about topics addressed in the bill within 30 days of receipt.

As described in the [LSC bill analysis](#), current law provides for parental notification, review, and opt-out of instruction in certain subject areas and requires school districts to establish a parental advisory committee or some other strategy to enable parental review of instructional materials and academic curricula. Schools likely will carry out the notification requirements in the course of distributing regular information at the beginning of each school year. Presumably, districts and schools will incorporate the bill's requirements regarding written concerns into existing procedures for resolving disputes, complaints, and similar matters.