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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

S.B. 129
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 129's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Cirino

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Suveksha Bhujel, Economist

Highlights

- The State Vision Professionals Board will experience minimal costs to adopt rules governing the performance of procedures authorized by the bill.

Detailed Analysis

The bill expands the scope of practice of optometrists by authorizing an optometrist to perform specified invasive procedures if they meet the bill's eligibility criteria, broadening the drugs that can be prescribed or administered, and allowing therapeutic pharmaceutical agents to be furnished. The bill also allows an optometrist to treat any condition of the visual system, rather than only a condition that is abnormal. The bill requires the State Vision Professionals Board to adopt rules necessary to govern the performance of procedures authorized by the bill. The rules must specify (1) the infection control practices to be followed by an optometrist and (2) the training requirements to be satisfied in order to be eligible to perform each procedure. The rules must also determine the minimum number of hours of instruction required for procedures other than laser surgery, which the bill requires to be at least 32 hours. As a result, the Board would realize minimal rule promulgation costs and possibly minimal costs to respond to any questions or complaints that arise. It is possible that the bill's provisions could lead to other impacts as well, including an increase in access and utilization of health care services.

The bill makes technical corrections to optometrist licensure provisions relating to H.B. 509 of the 134th General Assembly. These include allowing the Board to take necessary action to convert each valid certificate of licensure, topical ocular pharmaceutical agents certificate, and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate issued before April 6, 2023, into a certificate to practice optometry. According to the Board, it has already completed administrative duties relating to H.B. 509. Thus, there are no fiscal impacts associated with these provisions.