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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 234
135th General Assembly

Final Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 234's Bill Analysis](#)

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Gavarone

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- A public higher education institution may incur minimal administrative costs to provide new students and their parents with information about declarations for mental health treatment as part of its orientation, onboarding, or transfer materials and programs. Any additional costs may be offset, at least somewhat, if the institution opts to use the standard information sheet created by the Ohio Department of Higher Education and Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to convey the information.

Detailed Analysis

Higher education institutions and schools

The bill requires each higher education institution to provide new students and their parents or guardians information about declarations for mental health treatment, including information on how to access and execute a declaration and considerations to help determine whether a declaration would benefit a student, in its orientation, onboarding, or transfer materials and programs. A declaration for mental health treatment is a legal written document that serves as a type of advance directive declaring an individual's preferences or instructions regarding their mental health treatment in times when the individual is unable to make their own decisions.

Public higher education institutions may incur minimal administrative costs to provide this information to students. However, any additional costs may be mitigated, at least somewhat, if an institution conveys the information using the standard information sheet the bill requires the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) to create. The administrative workload of ODHE and OhioMHAS may increase to create the standard information sheet.

The bill also requires each public and chartered nonpublic school and each higher education institution to include the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline telephone number, 988,

or its successor, on each newly issued student identification card, student planner, and in any electronic portal administered by the school or college that may be accessed by students. The bill requires only newly issued identification cards and planners to include the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline telephone number. There is no requirement to reprint current identification cards or planners. In fact, the bill expressly permits schools and higher education institutions to use materials without the information included if the materials were printed prior to the bill's effective date. Schools and higher education institutions that use or provide these materials to students will likely add the number during regular updates to them. Any costs incurred by public schools and higher education institutions in updating the materials will likely be minimal, at most.

Epinephrine autoinjectors

The bill authorizes law enforcement agencies or other entities served by peace officers to acquire and maintain epinephrine autoinjectors, which should have no direct fiscal effect on the state or local political subdivisions. As a result of the bill, peace officers will be permitted to provide or administer epinephrine during emergencies if they have completed the same anaphylaxis training requirements that apply to others under continuing law. It does not require any action on the part of the state or local political subdivisions, but any agency or entity which acquires or maintains epinephrine autoinjectors for provision or administration will see increased expenses to purchase and maintain autoinjectors and to acquire the required training.

Awareness designations

The bill's provisions regarding awareness designations have no direct fiscal effect on the state or local political subdivisions. The bill designates the month of May as "Food Allergy Awareness Month" and "Lupus Awareness Month." These provisions do not require any action on the part of the state or local political subdivisions.