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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

H.B. 101
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Mohamed and Williams

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SUMMARY

- Establishes the Law Student Encouragement Scholarship Pilot Program.
- Appropriates \$350,000 in FY 2027 to be used for the creation of the program.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Program operation

The bill establishes the Law Student Encouragement Scholarship Pilot Program to support underrepresented undergraduate students pursuing admission to law school. Under the bill, the Chancellor of Higher Education must distribute funds appropriated for the program to the Ohio State Bar Association to operate it.

The Ohio State Bar Association must establish procedures and criteria to award scholarships under the program. It must select an initial cohort of 10-20 Ohio resident students from groups who are underrepresented in the legal profession who are enrolled full time at a postsecondary institution that grants bachelor's degrees in this state. Each member of the cohort will receive an academic scholarship of \$4,000 per academic year.

As part of the program, the Ohio Bar Association must also organize events and programming, including one-on-one mentoring to familiarize the program's students with law school and legal careers. Additionally, it must provide the program's students free test preparation materials, academic support, and registration for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The bill allows the Ohio State Bar Association to use a portion of the appropriation to employ staff to support the program's operations.¹

¹ Sections 2(A), (B), and (C).

Program report

By January 30, 2028, the Ohio Bar Association must submit a report to the Chancellor and to the chairpersons and ranking members of the Senate and House of Representatives standing committees that consider higher education legislation. The report must include an accurate and detailed account of the pilot program, its outcomes, and its revenues and expenses, including the use of all state funds appropriated to the program by the bill.²

Appropriation

The bill appropriates \$350,000 in FY 2025 to establish the Law Student Encouragement Scholarship Pilot Program.³

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-12-25

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² Section 2(D).

³ Sections 1, 2, and 3.