



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 458 of the 131st G.A. (L_131_1070-4) **Date:** December 6, 2016
Status: In House Community and Family Advancement **Sponsor:** Reps. Boyd and Rezabek

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: To require a region-based kinship care navigator program

State Fiscal Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) would realize an increase in costs to establish a statewide program of kinship care navigators. Total costs would depend on how much federal Title IV-A reimbursement could be dedicated to the program and the implementation of the program itself.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Public children services agencies that currently operate navigator programs could realize a decrease in costs since ODJFS would be responsible for any nonfederal share associated with operating a Kinship Care Navigator Program. According to the Public Children Services Agency of Ohio, few counties currently operate such a program.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires, rather than permits as is the case under current law, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to establish a statewide program of kinship care navigators. Current law states that kinship care navigators are to assist kinship caregivers who are seeking information regarding, or assistance obtaining, services and benefits available at the state and local level that address the needs of those caregivers residing in each county. In addition, the bill requires the ODJFS Director to divide the state into five to 12 regions for the statewide kinship navigator program. The bill specifies what the Director is to consider when establishing regions. Additionally, the bill requires each kinship care navigator region to provide information and referral services and assistance in obtaining support services for kinship caregivers within its region.

The bill requires the ODJFS Director to submit a state plan amendment to make federal payments for kinship care navigators under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act (the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or "TANF"). Finally, the bill specifies that ODJFS is to pay the full nonfederal share of the program and that no county departments of job and family services or public children services agency are to be responsible for the program's cost.

There would be costs to ODJFS to establish a statewide Kinship Care Navigator Program. The total cost would depend on how much federal reimbursement could be dedicated to the program and how the program was implemented (e.g., how many regions established, how many additional staff are required, etc.). Additionally, public children services agencies that currently operate navigator programs could realize a decrease in costs since ODJFS would be responsible for any nonfederal share. According to the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO), there are few counties that operate such programs and those programs are likely supported with local dollars.