



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 308 of the 131st G.A. **Date:** December 7, 2016
Status: As Reported by House Community and Family Advancement **Sponsor:** Sen. Coley

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: To amend the child support laws

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill makes several changes to hearing and objection timeframes for administrative child support cases. According to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), these changes would require system updates to the Support Enforcement Tracking System (SETS), the state's automated child support management system used by ODJFS and child support enforcement agencies (CSEAs). ODJFS estimates that these changes would cost between \$1 million and \$2 million (approximately \$333,000 to \$667,000 state share) to reprogram the system.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill makes several changes to child support administrative processes. According to the Ohio CSEA Directors' Association and the Ohio Judicial Conference, there could be both minimal costs and minimal savings for CSEAs and courts to make these changes to their processes.
- The bill requires a Title IV-D application or other Title IV-D referral to be completed and filed in certain child support and paternity determination cases. A Title IV-D application allows the CSEA to receive 66% federal reimbursement of a child support case.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill makes numerous changes to various provisions of the law governing the establishment of paternity, the calculation of child support, the collection and disbursement of child support, and support defaults.

The bill makes several changes to hearing and objection timeframes for administrative child support cases. These include decreasing from 30 days to 14 days the amount of time that a mother, alleged father, and guardian or legal custodian may bring an action to object to an administrative order establishing paternity, providing that a person who receives a notice of medical support enforcement activity may file a written request for an administrative hearing with the CSEA that issued the notice no later than 14 days after the notice was issued, and reducing the time to object to the termination of an administrative child support order to 14 days. According to ODJFS, these changes to hearing and objection timeframes would require system updates to the Support Enforcement Tracking System (SETS), the state's automated child support management system used by ODJFS and CSEAs. ODJFS estimates that reprogramming SETS would cost between \$1 million and \$2 million (approximately \$333,000 to \$667,000 state share) and require approximately eight to 12 months to complete. These changes would be eligible for federal reimbursement at a rate of 66% of the total cost under the Title IV-D child support program. This cost estimate is consistent with similar information technology projects completed by ODJFS.

The bill also makes several changes to child support administrative processes. According to the Ohio CSEA Directors' Association (OCSDA) and the Ohio Judicial Conference, there could be both minimal costs and minimal savings for CSEAs and courts to make these changes to their processes.

In addition, the bill requires a Title IV-D application or other Title IV-D referral to be completed and filed in certain child support and paternity determination cases. A Title IV-D application allows the CSEA to receive 66% federal reimbursement of a child support case.

The bill delays the effective date of the bill's provisions by nine months. During this period, ODJFS must perform necessary automated system changes and may organize and oversee the statewide training of local child support enforcement agencies, lawyers who practice in child support, and judges who preside over child support cases.