Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 70 of the 132nd G.A.   **Status:** As Introduced

Sponsor: Sen. Coley   **Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

Subject: Amending child support laws

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill makes several changes to hearing and objection timeframes for administrative child support cases that would require system updates to the Support Enforcement Tracking System (SETS), at a 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 Child Support Enforcement Agency (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 provisions of the law governing the establishment of paternity, the calculation of child support, the collection and disbursement of child support, and support defaults.

Hearing and objection timeframe

The bill modifies the 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 child support enforcement agency (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's provisions take effect nine months after the effective date of the bill. 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.

Administrative processes

The bill also makes several changes to child support administrative processes. These include eliminating the option to request an administrative officer of a CSEA to issue an administrative child support order based on a paternity presumption, requiring CSEA administrative officers include a request for several pieces of information from the parents upon scheduling a hearing, and making several changes to CSEA and court procedures. 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.