



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 533 of the 132nd G.A.
(L_132_2144-4)

Status: In House Community and Family Advancement

Sponsor: Rep. Pelanda

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Foster caregiver training and home assessor requirements

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) could see an increase or decrease in costs related to foster caregivers depending on what rules are promulgated.
- ODJFS will experience an administrative cost to promulgate rules regarding foster care training requirements.
- Public children services agencies (PCSAs) may see a change in costs and subsequent reimbursements from ODJFS due to changing hours of training for new and renewal certificates for foster homes.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

H.B. 533 makes several changes to the required training for foster care home providers. Most of the changes in the bill remove requirements from the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and allows ODJFS to specify requirements in rules.

Preplacement and continuing training

The bill changes the minimum number of hours of training required to receive and renew a foster care home certificate from hours established in the ORC to those established in rule. The current minimum number of training hours are:

- 36 hours for preplacement training for a family or specialized foster home;
- 40 hours for biennial continuing training for a family foster home;
- 60 hours for biennial continuing training for a specialized foster home; and
- 12 hours for initial certification and 24 hours for renewal certification biennially for caregivers under a temporary custody order.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reimburses foster caregivers for the time for their training at a rate of \$10 per training hour.¹ According to ODJFS, the state had 7,283 foster homes in FY 2017. Of these, 1,255 were new foster homes, 2,650 were existing foster homes, and 3,378 were specialized foster homes. Any savings or costs associated with the above changes will depend on rules promulgated. The bill further eliminates requirements regarding the content of the training, instead allowing them to be developed in rule. It is unclear how this change may affect the cost of carrying out the training.

Additionally, the bill specifies that public children services agencies (PCSAs) develop a written needs assessment and continuing training plan for foster caregivers in accordance with ODJFS rules promulgated. The bill also eliminates statutory needs assessment and training requirements for foster caregivers in favor of requirements adopted by ODJFS in rules. Any impact will depend on promulgated rules.

The bill further specifies that the allowance to reimburse the costs of preplacement and continuing training provided to private child placing agencies and private noncustodial agencies will be determined in rule. Again, any impact will depend on rules promulgated.

The bill also specifies that up to 20% of preplacement training may be provided online. A PCSA that develops an online training program may be able to reduce costs for future trainings.

Synopsis of Fiscal Changes

The substitute version of H.B. 533 (L_132_2144-4) makes several changes relative to the As Introduced version of the bill. First, while the As Introduced version reduced the number of hours of training required for foster care preplacement, foster care family home, or specialized foster home, the substitute bill specifies that the number of training hours be determined in rules. Under the As Introduced bill, these reductions would have contributed to a savings in training costs. Under the substitute bill, any fiscal impact will depend on the rules promulgated. The substitute bill also requires the training requirements for a foster caregiver under a temporary custody agreement and a planned permanent living arrangement be established in rules. The bill also eliminates statutory needs assessment and training requirements for foster caregivers in favor of requirements adopted by ODJFS in rules. Any impact will depend on promulgated rules. These provisions were not in the As Introduced version of the bill.

The substitute bill further specifies that the allowance to reimburse the costs of preplacement and continuing training provided to private child placing agencies and private noncustodial agencies will be determined in rule. Again, any impact will depend on rules promulgated.

¹ O.A.C. 5101:2-5-38.

The substitute bill eliminates requirements regarding the content of preplacement and continuing training, instead allowing them to be developed in rule. It is unclear how this change may affect the cost of carrying out the training.

The substitute bill allows up to 20% of the training to take place online, while the As Introduced version of the bill allowed any amount of the training to take place online. This may reduce the savings that a PCSA could achieve if it would have allowed more than 20% of the training to take place online.

Finally, the As Introduced version of the bill permitted an employee of a county sheriff's office to conduct a home study of a family foster home or treatment foster home after meeting certain conditions. The substitute bill removed this provision. The provision was permissive. Thus, any fiscal impact associated with county sheriff's offices conducting these home studies would have depended on whether a county's sheriff's office chose to complete the assessments.