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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 164
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 164's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Primary and Secondary Education

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Ginter

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Jason Glover, Budget Analyst

The bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions. The bill authorizes students enrolled in public schools to engage in religious expression before, during, and after school hours to the same extent that a student may engage in secular activities or expression before, during, and after school hours. Accordingly, it also removes a provision that permits school districts to limit the exercise or expression of religion to lunch periods or other noninstructional time periods. It requires public schools to give students who wish to meet for the purpose of religious expression the same access to school facilities given to secular student groups, without regard to the content of the expression. The bill also prohibits schools from disallowing religious expression in class assignments. As defined in the bill, "religious expression" includes prayer, religious gatherings, distribution of written literature, and any other activity of a religious nature.