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S.B. 248
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 248's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate General Government & Agency Review

Primary Sponsors: Sen. Schaffer

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill decreases school facilities project costs for some public schools by extending from September 15, 2020 to November 30, 2022, the existing moratorium on a building code requirement that new school buildings contain a storm shelter. Any decrease in construction or renovation costs for affected school districts participating in the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program will be shared by the state and school districts depending on the district's relative wealth.

Detailed Analysis

The bill extends from September 15, 2020 to November 30, 2022, the existing moratorium on the building code requirement for new public and nonpublic schools to have storm shelters. Specifically, the bill prohibits the storm shelter requirement from applying to any public or private school building either in operation or undergoing or about to undergo construction or renovation for which financing has been secured prior to November 30, 2022.

This provision will decrease construction project costs for public districts and schools that were slated to begin a facilities project before that date and would otherwise have needed to add a storm shelter to their facilities plans to comply with the building code requirement. If the school district's facilities project is funded under the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP), the reduction in cost will be shared by the state and the district. CFAP provides state funding for school facilities based on each district's relative wealth. Lower wealth districts receive a larger percentage of their total project funding from the state and are funded before higher wealth districts.

Before the storm shelter requirement was slated to go into effect in November 2017, Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) staff developed estimates of the cost to incorporate a storm shelter into public school construction projects that were in design at the

time. According to OFCC's model, a storm shelter added an average of \$589,000 (3.8%) to the total cost of a new public school.¹

Background on the storm shelter requirement

Beginning in November 2017, the Ohio Building Code (OBC) required certain buildings, including K-12 schools, to have storm shelters in accordance with the International Building Code. The OBC requires, among other specifications, that the storm shelter's envelope components, including doors and windows, be designed to withstand debris missile impacts based on a wind speed of 250 miles per hour. The storm shelter requirement can be met through a stand-alone structure, or a specifically designed, hardened area within a school building.² H.B. 21 of the 132nd General Assembly, effective September 28, 2018, originally enacted the moratorium on the school storm shelter requirement until September 15, 2019, and H.B. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly extended the moratorium until September 15, 2020.

SB0248SR/lb

¹ Ohio Facilities Construction Commission. "School Storm Shelter Study Report to the 133rd General Assembly," December 2019, page 5. Available online at <https://ofcc.ohio.gov/Resources/Publications/#1156211-school-storm-shelter-report>.

² OFCC Storm Shelter Study Report, page 4.