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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 329
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Powell

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SUMMARY

- Prohibits the state from conducting a lottery dependent on an individual's COVID-19 vaccination status.
- Reduces a coronavirus relief appropriation under the Department of Health, and directs those funds to specified uses within the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Development Services Agency.
- Declares an emergency.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Prohibit COVID-19 vaccine lottery; modify appropriations

The bill prohibits the state from conducting any "event" for which participation or eligibility to receive a prize is dependent on an individual's COVID-19 vaccination status. "Event" includes a contest, competition, drawing, lottery, sweepstakes, raffle, promotion, or random selection for which the winner is an individual who receives a prize.¹

Under the bill, any appropriation from appropriation item 440674, Coronavirus Relief – DOH, that the Department of Health has encumbered or set aside for an "event" must instead be used as follows:²

¹ R.C. 3770.23. The prohibition applies to any statewide elected officer, administrative department, or administrative department head listed in R.C. 121.02 or 121.03, or other state agency.

² Sections 2 and 3.

- 50% for the Early Childhood Mental Health initiative within the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (to be appropriated to item 336647, Early Childhood Mental Health); and
- 50% to the Small Business Grant Relief Program within the Development Services Agency (to be appropriated to item 195631, Coronavirus Relief – Small Business Grant).

The bill reduces the appropriation to 440674, Coronavirus Relief – DOH, in FY 2021 by the amount encumbered or set aside for such an “event.”

The bill is called the “Taxpayer Protection Against the Frivolous Vaccine Lottery Act.”³

Finally, the bill declares an emergency and would therefore go into immediate effect.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-25-21

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³ Section 4.

⁴ Section 5.