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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

S.B. 233
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Blessing

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The State Board of Education Licensure Fund (Fund 4L20), used by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), will likely gain a minimal amount of fee revenue as a result of the bill's requirement that school nurses and school nurse wellness coordinators hold a license from the State Board of Education (instead of a registration from ODE that carries a lower fee), in addition to the Ohio Board of Nursing as under current law.
- The bill changes the state retirement system membership for some school nurses from the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) to the School Employees Retirement System (SERS). The membership change has no fiscal effect since current employers of nurses in schools contribute the same rate (14%) to SERS as STRS.

Detailed Analysis

School nurse licensure

The bill will likely result in a minimal gain in fee revenue to the State Board of Education Licensure Fund (Fund 4L20) as a result of the bill's requirement that school nurses and school nurse wellness coordinators hold a license from the State Board of Education, in addition to the Ohio Board of Nursing. Under the bill, school nurses and school nurse wellness coordinators that are registered with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) under current law enacted in H.B. 442 of the 133rd General Assembly, effective April 12, 2021, must instead hold a separate license from the State Board of Education. Prior to H.B. 442, a professional pupil services license for school nurses carried education requirements beyond that required to obtain a nursing license from the Ohio Board of Nursing. Accordingly, the bill requires the State Board to adopt rules establishing the standards and requirements for obtaining a school nurse license and a school nurse wellness coordinator license, which may increase the administrative workload for

ODE to assist the State Board in this effort. To allow an individual to complete any additional education required by the State Board, the bill also requires the State Board to issue a one-year temporary license to any individual who was registered as a school nurse with ODE. The bill exempts contract nurses from the bill's school nurse license requirement.¹

Fund 4L20 will likely gain less than \$10,000 in revenue from license fees every five years as a result of the bill. The bill requires school nurses who are currently registered with ODE to pay the \$50 difference between the fee for a five-year pupil services license (\$200) and the fee for the five-year registration under current law (\$150). Currently, ODE reports that 191 individuals hold a registration as a school nurse. If all 191 individuals change their registration to a license as a result of the bill, the revenue gain to Fund 4L20 would be \$9,550 every five years (191 nurses x \$50 fee difference). Some of these individuals, however, may be contract nurses and will not need to obtain a license, as the bill exempts a contract nurse from the bill's license requirement. Therefore, the revenue gain may be less. ODE's active credential data does not indicate how many nurses holding an ODE registration are contract nurses. Nevertheless, as a point of reference, information provided separately by ODE indicates most school districts and other public schools employ school nurses directly.

Fund 4L20 is supported by various license fees paid by educators and other school staff. The funds, appropriated in line item 200681, Teacher Certification and Licensure, cover ODE's costs of processing licensure applications, providing technical assistance related to licensure, administering the educator disciplinary process, and providing the Resident Educator Summative Assessment to teachers.

School nurses and state retirement system membership

The bill switches a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse employed by a school but who does not hold a license issued by the State Board of Education, e.g., contract nurses, from the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) to the School Employees Retirement System (SERS). The membership change has no fiscal effect since current employers of nurses in schools contribute the same rate (14%) to SERS as STRS. A registered nurse or licensed practical nurse employed by a school who holds a license issued by the State Board of Education remains a member of STRS, as under continuing law.

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¹ Under continuing law, contract nurses must hold a credential that is equivalent to being licensed as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.