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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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S.B. 239
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 239's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate Health

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Blessing

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will realize an increase in costs to establish and provide training for specified staff employed with private agencies.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires professional treatment staff (not subject to licensing requirements for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists) employed by public children services agencies (PCSAs) to meet the same educational qualifications and in-service training requirements as required of PCSA caseworkers in existing law. Additionally, professional treatment staff employed by private child placing agencies (PCPAs) and private noncustodial agencies must also meet these requirements, except that staff have fewer requirements during the first year of continuous employment. The bill also requires the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to work with PCPAs and private noncustodial agencies to establish a comprehensive, competency-based professional treatment staff training program for employees of PCPAs and private noncustodial agencies. The bill specifies that required training may be offered by a PCPA, private noncustodial agency, or qualified nonprofit organization, with approval by ODJFS, until ODJFS establishes a program. After a program is established, all training must be provided by ODJFS only. As a result, ODJFS will realize an increase in costs to help establish and provide this training. PCSA caseworkers currently receive training through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP). The OCWTP is a training system established under ODJFS for public agency staff and managers, as well as resource families. ODJFS will likely be able to use this system as a basis when developing the required training for private agencies. If any fees could be charged, some costs could be offset. Lastly, ODJFS may realize some minimal costs to approve training programs prior to their development of such a program.