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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 572
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. White

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) will incur expenditures in the several millions of dollars range to conduct audits of each institution with an educator preparation program to determine what instruction they are providing to students on mental and behavioral health, behavior management, and classroom management.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) to conduct an audit of each educator preparation program offered by an institution of higher education to determine what instruction they are providing to students on mental and behavioral health, behavior management, and classroom management, including how they are incorporating education on adverse childhood experiences and trauma. Also, ODHE, in conjunction with the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), must develop a report that analyzes the audit's summary and findings and makes recommendations for evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies, practices, and content to address identified needs and equip educators to support students from early childhood education through grade 12. ODHE and DEW must distribute the report to school districts, the General Assembly, and the Governor by March 31, 2025.

According to an ODHE spokesperson, the cost for the audits required under the bill could be approximately \$5 million, depending on the timing of the audits and the number of educator preparation programs subject to the audit. H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly provides ODHE with \$75,000 in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025 under GRF line item 235585, Educator Preparation Programs, for ODHE's additional responsibilities under H.B. 33 related to educator preparation programs and the science of reading, including, beginning January 1, 2025, conducting audits of each of the 50 educator preparation programs operating in the state. When the contract for the H.B. 33 audits was issued for bidding, the lowest bid received was approximately \$3 million.

However, the audits required under this bill appear to be broader in scope than the ones required under H.B. 33, as they would affect every educator preparation program regardless of the licensure they offer. Costs could also depend on how much time ODHE will have to complete the audits between the bill's enactment and the March 31, 2025 deadline for issuing the final report.

ODHE and DEW may each incur an increase in administrative workload for developing a report that analyzes the audits' findings and distributing the report to school districts, the General Assembly, and the Governor.