



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 28 of the 131st G.A.

Date: March 19, 2015

Status: As Reported by House Community and Family Advancement

Sponsor: Rep. Anielski

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Requires state institutions of higher education to develop and implement suicide prevention programs

State Fiscal Highlights

- State institutions of higher education that currently do not have a suicide prevention policy in place may incur one-time costs for developing and implementing one.
- State institutions may also incur ongoing, annual costs for having to provide all incoming students with information about certain mental health topics.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires a state institution of higher education, no later than one year after the bill's effective date, to develop and implement a policy to advise students and staff on suicide prevention programs. The policy must include the following: (1) crisis intervention access, (2) mental health program access, (3) multimedia application access, (4) student communication plans, and (5) "postvention" plans. Items (1) through (4) are required to be posted on each institution's website. Institutions that currently do not have these policies in place would likely incur one-time administrative costs in developing them.¹ These costs are not likely to exceed minimal as a variety of organizations provide free or low-cost materials that could be used by an institution to develop a policy. Additionally, an institution may also incur ongoing costs for providing information on certain mental health topics to incoming students each year.

The bill also requires the Board of Regents (BOR) and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHA) to post on their websites any applicable free-of-cost prevention materials or programs. In addition, MHA is required to review the materials and programs each year. These requirements may increase the administrative burdens of BOR and MHA, however, they likely can be completed with little to no additional cost.

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¹ Some institutions have a suicide prevention program already in place and may already meet, or nearly meet, the requirements of the bill. For example, the Ohio State University operates the Ohio State University Campus Suicide Prevention Program. The website for the program lists prevention information, specific programs and services offered, and contact telephone numbers and hotlines where individuals can get immediate assistance. See <http://suicideprevention.osu.edu/> for more information.