



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Neil Townsend

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 146 of the 131st G.A.

Date: July 20, 2015

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Reps. Grossman and Brenner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: To require instruction in cursive handwriting

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill requires the Department of Education (ODE) to assist school districts in identifying the most appropriate means for integrating the bill's handwriting requirements into their existing curricula. ODE also must assist in identifying instructional materials to meet the handwriting requirements. These requirements may increase ODE's administrative burden.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill requires school districts to provide handwriting instruction to students in kindergarten through fifth grade to ensure that students develop the ability to print letters and words legibly by third grade and to create readable documents using legible cursive handwriting by the end of fifth grade. School districts that do not already provide such instruction will experience an increase in costs to fulfill the requirement; however, these costs are not expected to exceed minimal.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires school districts to provide handwriting instruction to students in kindergarten through fifth grade to ensure that students develop the ability to print letters and words legibly by third grade and to create readable documents using legible cursive handwriting by the end of fifth grade. Currently, instruction in cursive handwriting varies by district and school. School districts that do not already provide such instruction will experience an increase in costs to fulfill the requirement; however, these costs are not expected to exceed minimal.

The bill requires the Department of Education (ODE) to assist school districts in identifying the most appropriate means for integrating the bill's handwriting requirements into their existing curricula. ODE also must assist in identifying instructional materials to meet the handwriting requirements. Currently, ODE's model curriculum in English language arts for grades three¹ and four² includes resources for teaching cursive. Nonetheless, these requirements may increase ODE's administrative burden.

HB0146IN.docx/th

¹ See page 28, http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Ohio-s-New-Learning-Standards/English/Grade_3_ELA_Model_Curriculum_March2015.pdf.aspx.

² See page 33, http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Ohio-s-New-Learning-Standards/English/Grade_4_ELA_Model_Curriculum_March-2015.pdf.aspx.