



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Anthony Kremer

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 82 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sens. Williams and Lehner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Notification to parents if a student is absent from school without excuse

In general, the bill requires each public school to place a telephone call within 60 minutes of the start of the school day to a parent whose child is absent without legitimate excuse unless the parent or other person having care of the child notify the school within that 60-minute period. Current law requires each school district board of education to adopt a written policy that requires notification of a student's parent, legal custodian, or any other person responsible for the student within a reasonable time after the determination that the student is absent from school. Under that law, a student's parent must provide the school a current address and a telephone number at which the parent can receive notice that the student is absent from school. The bill makes this current "reasonable time" requirement subject to the bill's requirement to place a call within 60 minutes of the start of the school day for an unexcused absence.

According to the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, many public districts and schools already have the capacity to notify parents with a computerized autodialing system that delivers a recorded message, which is commonly known as a "robocall" system. Others do so through an automated email system. Districts that do not already meet the bill's requirements may need to start using a robocall service in order to comply with the requirements of the bill. The costs associated with such systems appear to be minimal, as there is no equipment to purchase (the systems generally are web-based) and many providers offer inexpensive pay-as-you-go plans. Pricing among robocall service providers varies, but, among those LSC reviewed, most charge under ten cents per call. The price per call generally decreases as the volume of an organization's calls increases.

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