



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Robert Moore

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 377 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Reps. Ramos and Hagan

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Sexual abuse prevention and sexual violence prevention instruction

The bill adds two new areas of instruction to general health curriculum requirements that pertain to school districts, community schools, and STEM schools: (1) child sexual abuse prevention in grades kindergarten through six and (2) sexual violence prevention in grades seven through twelve. The bill also requires schools to provide in-service training for teachers and professionals on the topic of child sexual abuse. Some schools may incur minimal costs to update their health curricula and to provide additional in-service training to meet the requirements of the bill. Additional details are provided below.

Current law mandates instruction in personal safety and assault prevention under general health curriculum requirements for students in grades kindergarten through six. Although many schools may already be teaching sexual abuse prevention as part of health curriculum instruction in personal safety, schools may experience minimal costs in purchasing specific sexual abuse curriculum for elementary students.

Current law also mandates instruction in dating violence prevention education for students in grades seven through twelve and requires that the Department of Education (ODE) provide on its website links to free curricula addressing dating violence prevention. The Center for P-20 Safety and Security, a collaborative effort between the Ohio Department of Higher Education and ODE, has linked several sources of curriculum that address both dating violence and sexual violence prevention on its website. Schools that purchase specific sexual violence prevention curriculum for its middle and high school students may incur minimal costs to comply with the bill's requirement.

Under the bill, a school or school district may also incur minimal costs to incorporate child sexual abuse training into its required in-service training. However, a variety of child sexual abuse prevention education and training models and resources are available free of charge online through national and nonprofit institutions and organizations.