



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Alexandra Vitale

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 21 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Passed by the House

Sponsor: Rep. Hambley

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Community school enrollment verification

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill shifts administrative costs of conducting monthly reviews of residency records of community school students from traditional school districts to community schools.
- However, traditional school districts may continue to incur some administrative costs in this area. School districts are permitted to review and contest the residency determination made by the community school.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Current law requires school district boards of education to conduct monthly reviews of enrollment records of students in their districts who are enrolled in community schools. This review process includes verifying to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) the community school at which a student attends and that the student is entitled to attend school at that school district. Additionally, if there is a disagreement regarding a student's resident district, the community school must provide the student's resident district with documentation of the student's residency and make a good faith effort to correctly identify the student's residence. Furthermore, the community school may refer the matter to ODE. ODE is required to settle the dispute within 30 days and then make any necessary community school funding transfer adjustments.

Under the bill, the governing authority of a community school must conduct the monthly reviews of residency records of students enrolled in the community school. The governing authority must submit verification to ODE of the resident school district, which the bill specifies must take place upon enrollment of each student and on an annual basis. The bill will therefore shift administrative costs of verifying community school student residency from traditional school districts to community schools. However, traditional school districts may continue to incur some administrative costs in this area. The bill specifically permits the student's resident school district to review the determination made by the community school. If there is a disagreement, the bill maintains the current law procedures requiring a community school to provide the student's resident district with documentation of the student's residency, to make a

good faith effort to correctly identify the student's residence, and, ultimately, to refer the matter to ODE if the district and school are unable to resolve the issue.

The bill also requires, rather than permits as under current law, the governing authority of a community school to adopt a policy that specifies the number of documents required to initially verify a student's residency. Under the bill, the community school must also adopt a policy specifying the information needed to annually verify a student's residency. Further, the bill requires a contract between a community school and its governing authority to include provisions requiring the governing authority to adopt policies that (1) require a student's parent to notify the community school when there is a change in the student's residency and (2) govern student residency and address verification for students enrolling in or attending the school.

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