



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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

Status: As Reported by Senate Education

Sponsor: Sens. Williams and Lehner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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

The bill does not appear to have a direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions. In general, it requires each public school to attempt to contact, within 120 minutes of the start of the school day, a parent whose child is absent without legitimate excuse unless the parent notifies the school within that 120-minute period. Under the bill, the school may attempt to contact a parent by a live telephone call, automated telephone call, a notification through the school's automated student information system, a text message, email, home visit, or another notification procedure adopted by the school district board of education.

Current law requires each school district board 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 use one of the aforementioned means of communication within 120 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.

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