



The Ohio School Board Association (OSBA) appreciates the opportunity to review the 2011 Local Impact Statement Report prepared by the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) for members of the Ohio General Assembly and the general public. The document clearly outlines the fiscal impact of various bills on local governmental units, including public schools. The report provides the reader with valuable understanding of the cost and programmatic implications of selected bills.

The 2011 Local Impact Statement Report indicates that only five bills were enacted during 2010 that required local impact statements. Two of the five bills have significant impact on local school districts. These bills are Sub. S.B. 210 and S.B. 232. OSBA, along with other educational stakeholders, was very active throughout the legislative process on both bills and had some limited success in gathering legislative approval for modifications that lessened the burden on school districts.

While in agreement with the overall purposes of the bill, Sub. S.B. 210 originally would have required all school districts to offer a daily 30-minute period of exercise for students, but OSBA was successful in having this requirement changed to an opt-in pilot project. Similarly, the bill originally mandated that all districts conduct Body Mass Index screenings on children in grades K, 3, 5 and 9 prior to May 1 of each year. Legislators also modified this provision to permit school districts to seek a waiver for this requirement. Finally, the bill does prohibit, beginning on July 1, 2013, school districts from hiring any person to teach physical education who is not licensed in that subject area. The potential additional costs are unknown at this time.

Sub. S.B. 232 also features worthwhile goals – encouraging the development of alternative energy sources and economic development. However, the means chosen, in effect, is a redirection of local tax resources by the state with little or no opportunity for local taxing authorities to comment on the local impact. This appears to be a case of saying that some economic development is preferable to none at all and certainly a case can be made for that argument. However, as we testified and provided solid empirical evidence, the required payments in lieu of taxes were far less than necessary. The result of this decision was to favor out-of-state and even out-of-country developers with excessive tax breaks in comparison to other surrounding states with those breaks coming at the expense of local government units, including school districts.

We continue to believe that fiscal impact statements are necessary and would support legislation that would require the General Assembly to consider the local

impact of any bills adopted, including the biennial budget, capital appropriations bill and budget corrections bill which are now exempted from such local impact statements. As in prior years, we would encourage that fiscal impact statements be issued at each step of the legislative process as changes occur from the "As Introduced" version of a bill.

Once again, OSBA wishes to express appreciation to the Legislative Service Commission for its hard work and diligence on this important task. We look forward to working with them now and in the future.