

- The school districts and other providers of Head Start programs would incur negligible savings from the reduction of the number of site visits conducted by the state to ensure compliance with licensing and funding requirements.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

(1) Home district diplomas: The bill would permit the home school district of a student who graduates from the Ohio State School for the Blind (OSB) or the Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD) to grant him a diploma from the home district also.

Upon granting a diploma to a student, the superintendent of OSB or OSD would be required to provide notice of the student's receipt of the diploma to the board of education of his home school district. The notice would have to indicate the type of diploma granted.

Upon receipt of such notice by the home district's board of education that a student has received a diploma from either OSB or OSD, the board would be **permitted** to grant a high school diploma to the student. This diploma would be of the same type that the student has received from the state school.

However, the home district's board of education would be **required** to grant the student a diploma if he met the graduation requirements that he would otherwise have had to meet to receive a diploma from the home school district.

(2) Head Start: Currently the Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for the licensing of Head Start programs and facilities, while the Department of Education (ODE) administers Head Start funds. The bill would consolidate these responsibilities by transferring the licensing function from DHS to ODE, which would license Head Start programs as preschool programs.

The bill would also repeal language that permits programs that are exempt from day-care licensing to elect to have their programs licensed by DHS.

Concerning the two annual inspections that ODE must conduct of each program, the bill would require the department to prepare an annual report on these inspections, giving the number and types of violations it found and the steps taken to address the violations.

The bill would add two provisions to current law regarding the qualifications of an administrator of a preschool program licensed by ODE. First, the person must be located at the site of the program. Second, separate qualifications for Head Start site administrators are established by codifying the current DHS rules governing day-care center administrators.

ODE already licenses preschool programs operated by the school districts, county MR/DD boards and chartered non-public schools. DHS would continue to license child day-care providers and type A family day-care homes.

State fiscal effects

(1) **Home district diplomas:** The state would incur no direct fiscal effect as a result of the bill.

(2) **Head Start:** Currently DHS conducts an annual site visit to each Head Start program to ensure that it meets the requirements for licensing. ODE conducts two annual site visits to ensure that the program meets the requirements for funding. ODE has indicated that, with the transfer of the licensing responsibility from DHS to ODE, it will be able to include both the licensing and funding inspections in its current two visits per year. Therefore, the DHS's direct expense for its site visits could be eliminated.

Further, DHS would save the expense of site visits to those day-care programs not currently required to be licensed but electing to be licensed, since the election option would be repealed.

DHS indicated that the annual expenditure for just its Head Start site visits (among the visits it makes for many other programs) has not yet been isolated. ODE personnel were not available to provide the current expenditures for the ODE site visits. However, given that the budgeted allowance for administration is up to 2% of the FY 1998 Head Start appropriation of \$83.7 million, or approximately \$1.6 million, the amount for just the site visits would be a fraction of this amount. If a similar amount is being spent by DHS for its current site visits, then this is the amount that would be saved by the consolidation of visits.

Local fiscal effects

(1) **Home district diplomas:** The direct fiscal effect on the school districts would be **the** additional administrative expenses of preparing the additional diplomas and would be minimal or none.

(2) **Head Start:** The direct fiscal effect on school districts and other Head Start providers of the reduction of the number of Head Start site visits by the state would be negligible.

□ *LBO staff: David Price, Budget/Policy Analyst*

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