
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill transfers \$1.0 million in FY 2009 from GRF appropriation item 235-451, Eminent Scholars, to GRF appropriation item 235-439, Ohio Research Scholars, eliminating the Eminent Scholars program. The Eminent Scholars program is intended to attract and sustain prominent faculty to lead research programs at Ohio's public universities, an objective shared by the Ohio Research Scholars Program. Item 235-439, Ohio Research Scholars, also receives a transfer of \$12.0 million in FY 2008 and FY 2009 from GRF appropriation item 235-433, Economic Growth Challenge. This transfer eliminates all GRF funding for the Research Incentive Program, which provides matching funds for external research grants and awards obtained by public universities. Funding of \$18.0 million in FY 2008 and FY 2009 for the Research Incentive Program remains under Fund 011 and Fund 014 of the Department of Development in the Third Frontier Research and Development Fund Group.

The two transfers increase total GRF funding for the Ohio Research Scholars Program to \$42.0 million in FY 2008 and \$13.0 million in FY 2009. In addition, the bill earmarks up to \$3.0 million from capital appropriation item CAP-032, Research Facility Action and Investment Funds, for the program. H.B. 119 also earmarks \$20.0 million in FY 2009 from the Third Frontier Research and Development Fund Group in the Department of Development for the program. The Ohio Research Scholars Program is a competitive grant program designed to provide state funds to be deposited into an endowment, the income of which universities may use to recruit scientists to their faculties. The bill stipulates that only the amount of the original GRF appropriation (\$30.0 million in FY 2008) must be deposited into an endowment.

The bill also permits Ohio's nonpublic institutions of higher education to submit proposals for the Ohio Research Scholars Program if each proposal will be implemented in collaboration with a state institution. Under this provision, nonpublic institutions may receive Ohio Research Scholars Program awards and must follow the same rules and requirements as state institutions. Under continuing law, a proposal submitted by a state institution may be implemented in collaboration with a nonpublic institution.

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