Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

127 th General Assembly of Ohio

Ohio Legislative Service Commission
77 South High Street, 9th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6136 ✧ Phone: (614) 466-3615
✧ *Internet Web Site:* http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/

BILL: **Am. S.B. 144** DATE: **November 14, 2007**

STATUS: **As Passed by the House** SPONSOR: **Senators Stivers, Goodman, D. Miller, Schuler, and Gardner**

LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: **No — Minimal cost**

CONTENTS: **To require the Director of Health to establish the Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Program and to require the Department of Job and Family Services to record in the statewide automated child welfare information system whether a reported case of child abuse involved shaken baby syndrome**

State Fiscal Highlights

STATE FUND	FY 2008	FY 2009	FUTURE YEARS
General Revenue Fund			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Increase of up to $50,000 for the Department of Health; potential minimal increase to the Department of Job and Family Services	Potential minimal increase for the Department of Health; potential minimal increase to the Department of Job and Family Services	Potential minimal increase for the Department of Health; potential minimal increase to the Department of Job and Family Services

Note: The state fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. For example, FY 2008 is July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.

- The bill requires the Department of Health (ODH) to establish the Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Program. According to ODH, the cost to convene the work group, develop the educational materials, and post the materials to the web site would be approximately $50,000 in the first fiscal year that the bill becomes effective. In subsequent fiscal years, ODH could experience a minimal increase in expenditures relating to evaluating reports from the Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to determine the effectiveness of the Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Program. Please note that the costs referenced above are assuming that the Department would not be responsible for any printing expenses relating to the educational materials.

- The bill requires every employee of a public children services agency to make a notation on the statewide automated child welfare information system (SACWIS) of each case of child abuse where there is an indication that the child may be a victim of shaken baby syndrome. It is possible that ODJFS could experience a minimal increase in expenditures related to changes to SACWIS that would enable the system to capture this data. Beginning March 1, 2009, ODJFS must report to the Director of Health the number of reports involving a victim of shaken baby syndrome during the previous calendar year. This report will continue annually every March 1. ODJFS could experience a minimal increase in expenditures related to this requirement.

Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	FY 2008	FY 2009	FUTURE YEARS
Government-Affiliated Hospitals			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase
County Children and Family First Council			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase
Public Children Services Agency			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase

Note: For most local governments, the fiscal year is the calendar year. The school district fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

- The bill requires the shaken baby syndrome educational materials developed by ODH to be distributed to expectant and current parents. The bill specifies what entities are to distribute these materials and that the educational materials created will not impose an administrative or financial burden on these entities. Hospitals are included in this requirement, as are staff of the Help Me Grow program which is administered by county children and family first councils. Government-affiliated hospitals and county children and family first councils could experience an increase in expenditures (administrative and printing expenses) relating to the requirement that these entities distribute shaken baby syndrome educational materials. According to an Ohio Hospital Association spokesperson, the increase is expected to be minimal. It is anticipated that any increases experienced by the councils would also be minimal in nature, as long as the educational materials could be printed and/or copied in-house.

- The bill requires every employee of a public children services agency to make a notation on SACWIS of each case of child abuse where there is an indication that the child may be a victim of shaken baby syndrome. It is possible that there could be minimal administrative expenses associated with this.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Program

The bill requires the Director of Health to establish a Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Program by developing educational materials that present information on shaken baby syndrome and to post these materials on the Department of Health's (ODH) web site within a year after the bill becomes effective. The bill also requires the Director to convene a work group to advise the Director on the educational materials. The bill specifies the makeup of the work group. The bill also gives the Director discretion to add to the work group. The bill also specifies that the Director shall not develop educational materials that will impose an administrative or financial burden on any of the entities required to distribute materials.

Distribution of Education Materials

The bill requires the shaken baby syndrome educational materials developed by ODH to be distributed to expectant and current parents. The following are to distribute the materials:

- Child birth educators and staff of pediatric physicians' offices and obstetricians offices, to expectant parents;
- Hospitals and freestanding birthing centers in which a child is born, to the child's parents before the child is discharged from the facility;
- Staff of the Help Me Grow program during home visits; and
- Child care facilities operating in Ohio, to each of its employees.

The bill specifies that any entity and person that is required to distribute these educational materials is immune from civil and criminal liability for injury, death, or loss to any person or property resulting from the dissemination of, or failure to disseminate, the educational materials.

Child Abuse Reports and Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System

The bill requires every employee of a public children services agency to make a notation on the statewide automated child welfare information system of each case of child abuse where there is an indication that the child may be a victim of shaken baby syndrome. Beginning March 1, 2009, the Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) must report to the Director of ODH the number of reports involving a victim of shaken baby syndrome during the previous calendar year. This report will continue annually every March 1. The Director must evaluate these reports to assess the effectiveness of the Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Program.

Fiscal Impacts

Department of Health

According to ODH, the cost to convene the work group, develop the educational materials, and post the materials to the web site would be approximately $50,000 in the first fiscal year that the bill becomes effective. In subsequent fiscal years, ODH could experience an increase in expenditures relating to evaluating reports from ODJFS to determine the effectiveness of the Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Program. Any increase is expected to be minimal. These costs are assuming that the Department would not be responsible for any printing expenses relating to the educational materials.

Department of Job and Family Services

The bill requires every employee of a public children services agency to make a notation on the statewide automated child welfare information system (SACWIS) of each case of child abuse where there is an indication that the child may be a victim of shaken baby syndrome. It is possible that ODJFS could experience a minimal increase in expenditures related to potential changes to SACWIS that would enable the system to capture this data. Beginning March 1, 2009, ODJFS must report to the Director of ODH the number of reports involving a victim of shaken baby syndrome during the previous calendar year. This report will continue annually every March 1. ODJFS could experience a minimal increase in expenditures related to this requirement.

Government-Affiliated Hospitals

According to the Ohio Hospital Association, there are currently thirteen county hospitals, one city hospital, one city-county hospital, four hospital districts, and two state hospitals. These hospitals could experience an increase in expenditures (administrative and potential printing expenses) relating to the requirement that hospitals distribute shaken baby syndrome educational materials. The bill specifies that the Director of Health shall not develop educational materials that will impose an administrative or financial burden on any of the entities required to distribute materials. According to an Association spokesperson, the increase associated with this requirement is expected to be minimal.

County Children and Family First Councils

The bill requires staff of the Help Me Grow program to distribute shaken baby educational materials during home visits. The Help Me Grow program is administered by County Family and Children First Councils. Many of these councils provide grants to organizations to provide Help Me Grow services. The bill specifies that the Director of Health shall not develop educational materials that will impose an administrative or financial burden on any of the entities required to distribute materials. The councils could experience an increase in expenditures (administrative and printing expenses) relating to this requirement. LSC anticipates that this increase should be minimal, as long as printing and/or copying can be done in-house.

Public Children Service Agency

The bill requires every employee of a public children services agency to make a notation on SACWIS of each case of child abuse where there is an indication that the child may be a victim of shaken baby syndrome. It is possible that there could be minimal administrative expenses associated with this.

LSC fiscal staff: Wendy Risner, Senior Budget Analyst

SB0144HP.doc/rh