

# Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

127<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Ohio

Ohio Legislative Service Commission  
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BILL: **S.B. 144** DATE: **May 2, 2007**  
STATUS: **As Introduced** SPONSOR: **Sen. Stivers, Sen. Goodman,  
Sen. D. Miller, Sen. Schuler,  
and Sen. 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 2007	FY 2008	FUTURE YEARS
<b>General Revenue Fund</b>			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	- 0 -	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

Note: The state fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. For example, FY 2007 is July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.

- 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 printing and distributing these educational materials to hospitals, physicians' offices, etc. If the Department were responsible, costs would increase.
- 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 2007	FY 2008	FUTURE YEARS
<b>Government-Affiliated Hospitals</b>			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase
<b>County Children and Family First Council</b>			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase
<b>Public Children Services Agency</b>			
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. 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 potential printing expenses) relating to the requirement that hospitals distribute shaken baby syndrome educational materials. According to an Ohio Hospital Association spokesperson, any increase is expected to be minimal. It is anticipated that any increases experienced by the councils would also be minimal in nature.
- 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.

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## ***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.

### ***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 printing and distributing these educational materials to hospitals, physicians' offices, etc. If the Department were responsible, costs would increase.

### **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. According to an Association spokesperson, any increase 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. It is anticipated that the organizations receiving the Help Me Grow grants would add this requirement to their list of duties with little cost. However, the councils could experience a minimal increase in expenditures (administrative and potential printing expenses) relating to this requirement.

### **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.

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