



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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**Bill:** [H.B. 135 of the 129th G.A.](#)

**Date:** March 14, 2011

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Rep. Burke

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Contents:** Requires direct certification of students for free school meal benefits at least five times each school year

### State Fiscal Highlights

- The departments of Job and Family Services and Education may incur little, if any, additional cost in extracting data and sending it to schools at least five times each school year to directly certify eligible students for free school meals.

### Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

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### Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires the Ohio departments of Job and Family Services (JFS) and Education (ODE) to directly certify students for free school meal benefits at least five times each school year. Direct certification is a federally mandated process by which JFS provides to ODE, and ODE provides to schools, lists of children whose families participate in the Food Stamps or Ohio Works First Program and who, therefore, qualify for free school lunches and breakfasts. Currently, the direct certification process is conducted twice per year. Since the software and programming are already in place for this process, spokespersons from JFS and ODE have indicated that they may incur little, if any, additional costs for extracting data at least five times per school year. Furthermore, under a new agreement between both agencies, JFS and ODE will be conducting the direct certification process once a month beginning in FY 2012. This exceeds the requirements under the bill.