Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 543 of the 129th G.A. **Date**: May 24, 2012

Status: As Reported by House Health & Aging **Sponsor**: Rep. Anielski

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Requires public schools to train staff in youth suicide awareness prevention

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Schools and educational service centers (ESCs) choosing to develop their own curriculum for youth suicide awareness prevention may incur additional one-time costs. These costs are likely to be negligible as a number of organizations offer free model programs for use by schools.
- The bill does not increase the total amount of training required, so schools and ESCs should not incur additional costs in providing the training. In addition, the bill specifically permits the training to be conducted through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials. This option presumably may be completed at little to no cost.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Continuing law requires schools and educational service centers (ESCs) to provide administrators, teachers, counselors, school psychologists, and school nurses at least four hours of in-service training, every five years, on the prevention of child abuse, violence, and substance abuse, and the promotion of positive youth development. This training must incorporate training in school safety and violence prevention, the school's bullying policy, and, for middle and high schools, dating violence prevention.

The bill requires that the training also incorporate training in youth suicide awareness and prevention. The curriculum developed by the Department of Education (ODE) for the current training requirement already includes a module on recognizing depression and suicide ideation in students.[1] The bill permits the school or ESC to adopt the curriculum developed by ODE or to develop its own curriculum on youth suicide awareness and prevention. A school or ESC that chooses to develop its own curriculum may incur one-time administrative costs in developing the curriculum. However, these costs are likely to be negligible as a variety of organizations, such as the Jason Foundation, provide free model programs to schools.

As the bill does not increase the amount of training required, schools and ESCs should not incur additional costs in providing the training. The bill also specifically permits the youth suicide awareness and prevention training to be conducted through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials. This option presumably may be completed at little to no cost.

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[1] To view the model curriculum, please go to www.ode.state.oh.us and search for "Safety and Violence Prevention Training."