



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Am. Sub. S.B. 165 of the 129th G.A.](#)

Date: December 14, 2011

Status: As Passed by the House

Sponsor: Sens. Obhof and Grendell

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Modifies state academic standards and high school American history and government curriculum to include content on specified historical documents

State Fiscal Highlights

- If the bill requires an end-of-course examination in addition to the examinations currently required, the Department of Education (ODE) estimates an additional cost of \$2.0 million to \$2.5 million. However, it is not clear that the bill requires an additional examination. If ODE must merely modify an end-of-course examination required under current law, then the cost is likely not significant.
- ODE may incur minimal costs associated with modifying the social studies standards, model curricula, achievement assessments, and Ohio Graduation Test as required by the bill.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Some school districts and community schools may incur minimal costs to update their American history or American government high school curriculum to meet the requirements of the bill.
- School districts may incur costs for developing and implementing interim end-of-course examinations.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Social studies standards and model curriculum

The bill requires the State Board of Education, no later than July 1, 2012, to incorporate into the state social studies standards for grades 4 through 12 academic content regarding the original texts of the Declaration of Independence, the Northwest Ordinance, the United States Constitution and its amendments, with emphasis on the Bill of Rights, and the Ohio Constitution. Further, the bill requires the State Board to revise the state model curriculum for social studies to reflect the additional academic content. Most recently, the State Board adopted revised social studies standards in June 2010 and a revised social studies model curriculum in March 2011. Under continuing law, the State Board must adopt new or revised standards and model curricula every five years. According to a spokesperson from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), the costs of revising the current standards to meet the bill's requirements are minimal.

State assessments

Current law requires the State Board of Education to develop a system of college and work ready assessments to replace the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) as a requirement for high school graduation. Under current law, the system of assessments must include a series of end-of-course examinations in the areas of science, mathematics, English language arts, and social studies. The bill adds history and government as a distinct area for which end-of-course examinations must be developed. Furthermore, the bill requires that at least 25% of the end-of-course examination in history and government cover the historical documents mentioned above. According to ODE an end-of-course examination costs from \$2.0 million to \$2.5 million to develop and implement. It is not clear, however, that the bill requires an end-of-course examination in addition to those required under current law. If ODE must merely modify the end-of-course examination currently planned for history and government under the social studies area, then the cost is likely not significant.

The bill also requires the State Board to revise the fifth and eighth grade social studies achievement assessments¹ and the social studies portion of the OGT. ODE is already planning to revise the social studies assessments as part of a new assessment system aligned with the new standards adopted in 2010. Any additional cost of incorporating the changes required by the bill will likely be minimal.

¹ Administration of the fifth and eighth grade social studies achievement assessments has been suspended through FY 2013.

Social studies high school curriculum

Under current law, the high school curriculum must include one-half unit of American history and one-half unit of American government, including a study of the constitutions of the United States and Ohio. The bill requires, for students entering the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2012, that the one-half unit of American history and one-half unit of American government include the study of the historical documents mentioned above. Some school districts and community schools may incur minimal costs to update their American history or American government high school curriculum to meet these requirements.

Interim school district assessments

The bill requires each school district board of education, no later than July 1, 2013, to adopt an interim end-of-course examination in American history and government to be used until the State Board adopts the end-of-course examination described above. As with the examination adopted by the State Board, 25% of the interim examination must address the historical documents mentioned above. Presumably, a school district may use low-cost or no-cost options for the interim end-of-course examination. For example, if a district is currently offering a mid-term or final examination that meets the bill's requirements for the end-of-course examination, then that district could use that exam at little to no additional cost. Districts that do not offer mid-terms or final examinations for their courses may incur additional costs to develop an exam that meets the bill's requirements.