Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Am. S.B. 165 of the 129th G.A. **Date**: June 28, 2011

Status: As Reported by Senate Education **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state academic standards and high school American history and government curriculum to include content on specified historical documents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

- The Department of Education may incur minimal costs associated with modifying the social studies standards, model curricula, and assessments 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.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Social studies high school curriculum

Under current law, the high school curriculum must include 1/2 unit of American history and 1/2 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 1/2 unit of American history and 1/2 unit of American government include the study of the Declaration of Independence, the Northwest Ordinance, the United States Constitution with emphasis on the Bill of Rights, and the Ohio Constitution. 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.

Social studies standards, model curriculum, and state assessments

The bill requires the State Board of Education, no later than July 1, 2012, to incorporate into the state social studies standards academic content regarding the original texts of the historic documents mentioned above. 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.

The bill also requires the State Board to revise the fifth and eighth grade social studies achievement assessments[1] and the social studies portion of the Ohio Graduation Test (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.

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[1] Administration of the 5th and 8th grade social studies achievement tests was suspended in FY 2010 and FY 2011. Under the current version of the main operating appropriations bill of the 129th General Assembly, H.B. 153, these assessments will also be suspended in FY 2012 and FY 2013.