



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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**Bill:** [S.B. 230 of the 129th G.A.](#)

**Date:** February 13, 2012

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Sen. Sawyer

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Contents:** Creates the Office of Regional Services and Accountability in the Department of Education

### State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill creates the Office of Regional Services and Accountability in the Department of Education (ODE) and establishes various duties for the new office. These additional duties will likely increase ODE's administrative costs depending largely on the need to hire new staff. ODE anticipates having to hire four to six individuals to staff the Office. The total salary and benefits for these individuals is expected to range from \$380,000 to \$570,000.
- In addition to staff costs, ODE expects there to be expenses for equipment, maintenance, and travel associated with the Office's creation.

### Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

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## Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill establishes the Office of Regional Services and Accountability in the Department of Education (ODE) to review and make recommendations regarding the 16-region Educational Regional Service System (ERSS). Under the bill, the Office is required to:

1. Conduct a thorough of ERSS's structure and performance;
2. Establish operational and performance standards for ERSS;
3. Identify the core services to be provided by ERSS;
4. Define the roles and responsibilities of the providers in ERSS and monitor the providers to ensure they perform these roles and responsibilities;
5. Encourage flexibility and entrepreneurship of providers;
6. Establish a continuous review process for ERSS and revise the system as necessary;
7. Collaborate with other state agencies to coordinate regional outreach efforts;
8. Encourage public and chartered nonpublic schools to reduce costs; and
9. Make legislative recommendations to improve ERSS operations and ensure the provision of core services, to align ERSS funding with the actual cost of services, and to provide incentives for schools and regional service providers to collaborate on educational services.

The creation of the Office will likely increase administrative costs for ODE. The amount of the costs will depend on whether ODE hires new staff or whether the duties of the Office are absorbed by current employees. According to a spokesperson, ODE expects to require an additional four to six staff persons to support the Office's operation. Projected costs for these staff persons, including salary and benefits, are between \$380,000 and \$570,000. ODE also expects costs for travel, equipment, and maintenance to increase with the Office's creation.