Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Sub. H.B. 171 of the 130th G.A. **Date**: June 4, 2014

Status: As Passed by the Senate **Sponsor**: Reps. McClain and Patmon

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Permits public school students to attend and receive credit for released time courses in religious instruction conducted off school property during regular school hours

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- School districts that choose to adopt the policy authorized by the bill may incur minimal administrative costs.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill authorizes a school district board of education to adopt a policy for students to be excused from school to attend a released time course in religious instruction conducted by a private entity off school property. School districts choosing to adopt such a policy may incur minimal costs to develop and implement the policy. The bill prohibits public funds to be expended or public school personnel to be involved in providing the religious instruction. In addition, the bill requires the private entity providing the religious instruction to maintain attendance records and assume liability for the student. Under the bill, the private entity, student's parents or guardians, or the student is required to provide transportation to and from the place of instruction. The bill also permits school districts that adopt a policy to grant up to two units of high school credit to a student for completion of released time courses in religious instruction in place of certain "elective" credits required under the Ohio Core Curriculum. Districts may save the costs of providing the elective courses the student would otherwise need for graduation, but these cost savings will be negligible unless a significant number of students take advantage of the policy.

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