



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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**Bill:** [Sub. H.B. 178 of the 130th G.A.](#)  
(LSC 130 0967-2)

**Date:** December 10, 2013

**Status:** In House Education

**Sponsor:** Rep. Phillips

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Contents:** Makes changes to the law surrounding school safety drills

### State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

### Local Fiscal Highlights

- The provision requiring local law enforcement agencies to participate in the three school safety drills required by the bill, could result in an increase in expenditures for those agencies.

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## Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Under current law, schools must hold nine fire drills and one safety drill each school year. The bill increases the number of safety drills to three plus one "theoretical" drill that does not require student participation. The bill also requires that at least one of the safety drills involving students secure students in the building instead of evacuating them. For schools with smoke detectors, the bill reduces the number of fire drills to six. For schools without smoke detectors, the bill maintains the nine fire drill requirement, but permits the school to combine safety and fire drills. As the bill maintains the total number of drills that are required to be conducted at each school, the provisions of the bill are unlikely to increase expenditures for schools.

The bill requires that the three safety drills involving student participation be conducted in conjunction with local law enforcement. Current law requires that local law enforcement agencies be involved in the development of the school safety plan. According to the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, there are likely already some law enforcement agencies that participate in school safety drills, but there are also likely some that do not. This provision could result in an increase in expenditures for local law enforcement agencies.

The bill also permits school officials to certify compliance with the safety drill law by e-mail or fax instead of only by mail. This may reduce school expenditures by a negligible amount.

## Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes

The substitute bill adds a requirement that local law enforcement agencies be involved in the three school safety drills required by the bill. This could result in an increase in expenditures for local law enforcement agencies. The substitute bill also increases the total number of drills required (both fire and safety) when compared with the As Introduced version of the bill, which required five fire drills and four safety drills for all schools.