



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Sub. H.B. 178 of the 130th G.A.](#) **Date:** December 12, 2013
Status: As Reported by 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.

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 or sprinkler systems, the bill reduces the number of fire drills to six. For schools without smoke detectors or sprinkler systems, 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.