



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Sub. H.B. 352 of the 130th G.A.](#)

Date: April 1, 2014

Status: As Passed by the House

Sponsor: Reps. Hayes and Thompson

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Establishes a license for private, nonprofit therapeutic wilderness camps

State Fiscal Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) may experience a minimal increase in administrative costs related to the creation of a license for private, nonprofit therapeutic wilderness camps, providing and reviewing applications for license renewals, and the inspection of therapeutic wilderness camps.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- If the Director of ODJFS delegates inspection of a therapeutic wilderness camp to a county department of job and family services, the county department may experience an increase in costs related to the inspection of the facility.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires the Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to issue a license for private, nonprofit therapeutic wilderness camps. The bill includes therapeutic wilderness camps in the definition of "out-of-home care" and requires these camps to meet specified minimum standards. Minimum standards include a written policy that establishes standards for hiring staff, behavioral intervention, recordkeeping, and handling complaints. The policy must also establish standards for emergency and disaster preparedness, ensuring children's civil rights, and for admission and discharge of children attending the camp. Additionally, the camps must allow the Director to inspect the facilities and furnish any records or policies of the camp at the Director's request. Inspection of facilities may be delegated to a county department of job and family services. The license for private, nonprofit wilderness camps is valid for five years and may be renewed by submitting a renewal application which the Director of ODJFS will prescribe.

If the Director of ODJFS determines that a camp is operating without a license, the Director may petition the court of common pleas in the county in which the camp is located for an order enjoining its operation. The court shall order injunctive relief upon showing that the camp is operating without a license. If a camp fails to meet the minimum standards outlined in the provisions of the bill, the Director must notify the camp that the Director intends to revoke the license. Camps will have 90 days to meet the minimum standards, unless the violation poses an imminent risk to the life, health, or safety of the children attending the camp. Camps may appeal the decision of the Director to revoke the license.

ODJFS may experience a minimal increase in administrative costs related to the creation of a license for private, nonprofit therapeutic wilderness camps, providing and reviewing applications for license renewals, and the inspection of the camps. If the Director delegates inspection of a therapeutic wilderness camp to a county department of job and family services, the county department may experience an increase in costs related to the inspection of the facility. There is a possibility that hearings may be requested in the local court of common pleas to appeal an order of revocation, though the number of requests would likely be small and any costs for the involved court of common pleas would be absorbed in the daily cost of doing business.