



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Jason Phillips

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Sub. S.B. 21 of the 130th G.A.](#)

Date: February 27, 2013

Status: As Reported by Senate Education

Sponsor: Sen. Lehner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Revises the requirements for reading teachers under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and declares an emergency

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Under the bill, more teachers are likely to qualify to provide reading instruction to students under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, which may result in schools and districts being able to meet the requirement at a lower cost.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Current law requires a teacher providing reading instruction under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee to have been actively engaged in the reading instruction of students for the previous three years and meet at least one of four credential options. The bill eliminates the requirement for active engagement in reading instruction for the previous three years and makes changes to the credential options. The bill also replaces the slightly differentiated set of criteria for the 2013-2014 school year and 2014-2015 and subsequent school years and instead specifies a combined set of criteria effective for the 2013-2014 school year and beyond. Overall, these changes will likely increase the number of teachers who qualify, which may result in schools and districts being able to meet the requirement at a lower cost.

Under current law, a waiver for the 2013-2014 school year is available for school districts and community schools that are not able to furnish the number of qualified teachers needed. However, the district or school must submit a plan to ODE indicating the criteria that will be used to determine the teachers that will teach and how they intend to furnish the required number of qualified teachers for the 2014-2015 school year and beyond. Under such a plan, a school district or community school may contract with other school districts or private providers that have been screened and approved to provide reading intervention services. This option is required for districts that cannot furnish the number of teachers needed and whose plan is rejected by ODE. The bill eliminates the responsibility of ODE to approve or reject the plans submitted, and thus the requirement for school districts and community schools to use an alternate provider if the plan is rejected. The bill may result in fewer districts and schools needing a waiver and fewer opting to contract for reading intervention services.