



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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**Bill:** [S.B. 162 of the 130th G.A.](#)

**Date:** November 6, 2013

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Sen. Hughes

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** Yes

**Contents:** Requires carbon monoxide detectors in all public and private schools

### State Fiscal Highlights

- The State Fire Marshal and the Board of Building Standards, both within the Department of Commerce, may incur some new administrative costs to enforce the requirement that all schools install carbon monoxide detectors. However, these additional costs are not likely to be significant.

### Local Fiscal Highlights

- Schools that currently do not have carbon monoxide detectors will incur costs to purchase the detectors. Purchase costs are likely to be at least \$40 per building for a total cost of about \$145,600 for all public schools statewide. These costs may be higher depending on the rules and standards that the State Fire Marshal and the Board of Building Standards are required to adopt under the bill.

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## Detailed Fiscal Analysis

### Installation of carbon monoxide detectors in schools

The bill requires the State Fire Marshal and the Board of Building Standards to adopt rules requiring public and nonpublic schools to have carbon monoxide detectors in each of their buildings. The rules must specify the locations and product and installation standards for the detectors. The cost of this requirement for schools will depend on a number of factors, including: (1) whether or not a building already has a detector installed, (2) the type of detector that would be required to be installed, and (3) the number of detectors that would be required to be installed throughout a building. A basic carbon monoxide detector for residential use can be purchased for between \$20 and \$60 at a hardware store. Baltimore (Maryland) City Schools paid about \$8,000 to have a detector installed in each of its 200 school buildings, at an average cost of \$40 per building ( $\$8,000/200$ ).<sup>1</sup> Ohio has approximately 3,640 public and 750 chartered nonpublic schools. Public schools in Ohio would pay about \$145,600 ( $\$40 \times 3,640$ ) to install one \$40 detector in each school. Within this total, district costs range from \$40 for a district with one building to approximately \$4,800 ( $\$40 \times 120$ ) for the Columbus City School District, the state's largest school district, with one detector for each of its 120 school buildings. Costs for chartered nonpublic schools would be about \$30,000 under the same scenario. If, however, the rules require more than one detector per building or more expensive detectors designed to detect carbon monoxide leaks in larger use facilities, actual costs will be higher than these estimates.

### Violations of the Fire Code

Schools that do not comply with the new standards for installing detectors in their buildings may be subject to a civil fine of up to \$1,000 for each violation and other criminal penalties. Presumably, schools will comply with the standards and will not pay fines as a result of the bill.

### Enforcement costs

Ohio Fire Code regulators, including the Code Enforcement Bureau in the Division of the State Fire Marshal in the Department of Commerce, fire departments, or other local fire service entities may need to inspect the carbon monoxide detectors in schools to ensure compliance with the bill. Assuming these inspections can be done in conjunction with the fire code inspections currently performed, there will be little or no additional cost. If a special inspection is needed, or if the additional inspection requirements significantly increase inspection times, costs may increase. Note that some

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<sup>1</sup> <http://collegetpark.patch.com/articles/bill-would-mandate-co2-detectors-in-schools>.

local governments may already require schools to install detectors, and would thus not incur any new costs as a result of the bill.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The Ohio Fire Code provides uniform requirements for fire protection; however, local entities like cities or fire districts may adopt local fire regulations that address subject matter not covered under the Ohio Fire Code.