



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [S.B. 279 of the 130th G.A.](#)

Date: March 25, 2014

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sens. Jones and Tavares

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Requires the Department of Health to establish and operate a prenatal group health care pilot program and makes an appropriation

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill makes a General Revenue Fund appropriation of \$500,000 in both FY 2015 and FY 2016 to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to implement a prenatal group health care pilot program. ODH would incur administrative costs to review proposals from federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) or FQHC look-alikes applying to participate in the pilot program and to complete the required report each year of the program. Any administrative costs to ODH will likely be covered by the appropriated funds.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to establish and operate a prenatal group health care pilot program that is based on the centering pregnancy model of care developed by the Centering Healthcare Institute. The pilot program is to be operated for two years at four federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) or FQHC look-alikes. Two participants must be located in a rural area and the other two, in an urban area. ODH must issue a request for proposals to FQHCs and look-alikes and choose four on a competitive basis for participation in the program. The ODH Director is to convene a committee to assist in evaluating submitted proposals and selecting program participants. At least one member of the committee must represent the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers. Participants are to be chosen based on their ability to demonstrate that they can meet certain requirements, including having adequate space, resources, and have had an average of at least 100 patients that have given birth annually in recent years. Potential participants must also demonstrate that they are able to implement a centering pregnancy model of care quickly and can identify at least one employee who champions the centering pregnancy model of care by gaining support for the model from peers and other individuals.

The bill outlines the goals of the pilot program, which include decreasing the number of infants born preterm and increasing the number of pregnant patients who begin prenatal care during their first trimester of pregnancy. The bill requires the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers to employ a part-time infant mortality program coordinator to provide technical assistance to the program participants, collect data regarding the program, and monitor the program's success. The bill requires the Director of Health to prepare a report that summarizes data, evaluates the program, and makes recommendations for the program's future. The report will be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly each year of the program.

The bill also makes a General Revenue Fund appropriation of \$500,000 in both FY 2015 and FY 2016 to ODH. The funds are to be used to implement and operate the pilot project. The bill does not require any direct action on the part of local political subdivisions; thus, there should be no direct fiscal effect on local governmental entities.