



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

The Ohio School Boards Association would like to thank the Ohio Legislative Service Commission and the efforts that have gone into preparing the 2002 Local Impact Statement Report. As per Section 103.143 of the Ohio Revised Code division (D) it allows OSBA and other political subdivisions to comment on this annual local impact statement report.

OSBA believes the issue of unfunded and underfunded mandates will always be of concern and the work done by LSC to provide fiscal analysis of bills and resolutions is invaluable to legislators and the whole legislative process. However, OSBA believes that local impact statements should be required at each phase of the legislative process.

The 2002 Local Impact Statement Report shows that 167 bills passed in 2002 and became law. There were 5 bills that had no fiscal impact “As Introduced” but later were amended in the legislative process and ended up having fiscal impact to local political subdivisions in their “As Enacted” versions. Under this circumstance these bills were changed and a local impact statement wasn’t made again until after the bills became law. This is an area where current law can be improved. LSC should have the authority to analyze the fiscal impact of bills throughout the whole legislative process. Legislation can change many times before a final version is reached and the potential for negative fiscal impact on local political subdivisions exists by amendments to any piece of legislation.

Another area that needs to be addressed in current law is Division (F) of Section 103.143 of the Ohio Revised Code. This section of law exempts LSC from having to create a local impact statement for any biennial budget, capital appropriation and any budget correction bill. OSBA supports the findings by the former State and Local Government Commission (Commission) that urged the General Assembly to amend current law to repeal the exemptions contained in Division (F) of Section 103.143 and to allow LSC to update impact statements throughout the legislative process.

OSBA believes that the 2002 Local Impact Statement Report is a valuable tool provided by the Ohio Legislative Service Commission to the members of the Ohio General Assembly and to all Ohioans. The concerns expressed above if changed can only improve the process and give the full picture to the legislature as they make important decisions on legislation that has fiscal implications to the bottom line of all of the local government entities. OSBA looks forward to addressing these concerns with the Ohio General Assembly and we look forward to working with the Legislative Service Commission.