



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Am. H.B. 416 of the 130th G.A.](#)

Date: February 24, 2014

Status: As Passed by the House

Sponsor: Reps. Burkley and Hill

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Authorizes up to two additional school "calamity" days in FY 2014, authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction to delay the return of student assessment scores in FY 2014, and declares an emergency

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill eliminates the expenditures school districts and STEM schools may otherwise incur in making up two days that they are closed due to public calamity.
- The bill also offers these schools the option of making up any days closed beyond the seven that are excused by lengthening the school day, which is likely a less costly alternative to adding full days.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Additional calamity days

The bill increases the number of days a district school, STEM school, or chartered nonpublic school may be closed due to public calamity without making up the lost instructional time from five to seven in FY 2014. Thus, the bill eliminates the expenditures these schools may otherwise incur in making up these additional two days. The bill also permits schools to make up to two additional days by holding in-service training days for employees instead of instructional days with students in attendance. In addition, the bill permits these schools to make up any time lost beyond the seven days by lengthening the remaining instructional days in half hour increments instead of adding full days. Lengthening the school day in this manner is likely a lower cost alternative to adding full days, particularly in the areas of busing, food service, and utilities. School districts and STEM schools that do not meet the minimum school year requirements in any given year do not qualify for state operating funds in the next school year.

Delayed return of assessment scores

In early February, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) announced they were adding one week (now April 21 to May 16) to the testing window for districts and schools to administer the grades three through eight Ohio Achievement Assessments. In response to ODE's action, the bill delays the dates in FY 2014 for which scores for these assessments must be returned to districts and schools. Generally, under continuing law, assessment scores are to be returned no later than June 15th of each year. The bill delays this deadline for this school year by one day for assessments administered to third grade students and by 12 days for assessments administered to fourth through eighth grade students. Delaying the return date for assessment scores may permit the contractor scoring the assessments more flexibility to grade and return the results of the assessments to districts and schools.