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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 244
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 244's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Enacted

Primary Sponsors: Reps. White and Lampton

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

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Highlights

- Some school districts and other public schools that offer remote education options may incur additional costs to provide technology-based educational opportunities to children of military families while the families are transitioning from one military installation to another. For example, a district or school relying on a third-party educational provider may incur costs of between \$2,400 and \$4,200 per semester, or \$25 to \$50 per day, for each additional student that opts for this education under the bill.
- The bill allows the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to quarantine or isolate certain individuals under certain circumstances and requires ODH to provide isolated or quarantined individuals with necessities such as transportation, food, and medical testing and treatment. It also prohibits public schools and state institutions of higher education from requiring certain mandatory vaccinations. The fiscal effects of these provisions are uncertain.

Detailed Analysis

Technology-based educational opportunities

The bill requires school districts and other public schools to permit children of military families to participate in technology-based educational opportunities to minimize disruptions when those students' families transition from one military installation to another. Children of military families may participate in technology-based educational opportunities beginning when the students' parents receive permanent change of station orders to or within Ohio as well as

from Ohio until such time as the student is enrolled in the student’s new school. To facilitate the opportunities for students transitioning into the state, the bill also requires school district boards of education to permit children of military families who relocate to Ohio and are not yet district residents to apply to enroll in the district at the same time as students residing in the district and to accept enrollment applications electronically. The bill requires a uniformed service member parent to provide proof of residence in a school district within ten days after establishing residence in a new school district.

School districts and other public schools that offer technology-based educational opportunities may incur additional costs to provide this education to children of transitioning military families that opt for it and otherwise would not have been given the option. However, if a district or school does not offer technology-based educational opportunities to enrolled students, the bill does not appear to create a requirement that it establish a remote learning option if a district or school does not already have one.

According to the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA), the vast majority of school districts have experience providing remote education for students who are not able to attend school in person. For example, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, students experiencing medical issues requiring long-term rehabilitation or with other special circumstances may have received remote instruction. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted districts and schools to expand remote education options. At least 72% of districts and schools offered some form of remote education for part of the 2020-2021 school year. Even in schools with in-person instruction, quarantine guidelines required remote education for certain students in 2020 and 2021. While data from the spring of 2021 suggests districts and schools are striving to return students to classrooms,¹ BASA indicated many districts have found remote education to be a helpful tool and will continue providing options for remote learning after the pandemic ends.

Districts and schools that offer remote learning opportunities may do so in a number of ways. Some districts may be able to provide these opportunities directly using district staff and resources. BASA indicated that others may contract with a third-party education provider. Districts and schools contracting with a provider may have a contract on a per-student basis or a “flat” contract. BASA indicated that contracts on a per-student basis are more common than flat contracts. Contracts on a per-student basis typically cost between \$400 and \$700 per student for one semester long class. A semester of six classes, therefore, might range from \$2,400 to \$4,200 per student. This equates to a cost of roughly \$25 to \$50 per student per day for six classes. However, the provider may require a district or school to purchase each class for a full semester, regardless of the number of days the class is needed. A flat contract generally entails services for a certain number of classes based on the school’s size or for a certain number of students or “seats.” The cost of a flat contract will vary based on the classes purchased and number of students educated. However, BASA indicated that prices generally range from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for a given flat contract.

¹ See <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Reset-and-Restart/Data-Insights-on-the-2020-2021-School-Year>.

ODH authority – quarantine and isolation; vaccinations

The bill specifies that the Ohio Department of Health’s (ODH) authority in matters of quarantine and isolation allows ODH to quarantine or isolate individuals traveling to Ohio from another country for which the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued the highest level of travel health notice due to an outbreak of communicable or contagious disease in that country, and such notice is currently in effect at the time an individual arrives in Ohio, for a period of up to 48 hours from the time the individual arrives in Ohio, regardless of whether the individual has been medically diagnosed with, or come into direct contact with an individual who has been medically diagnosed with, that disease. The bill also requires ODH to provide the quarantined or isolated individual with transportation, lodging, food, and any necessary medical examination, testing, or treatment during that period.

The bill prohibits public schools and state institutions of higher education from requiring an individual to receive a vaccine not granted full approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The bill also prohibits discrimination against an individual who has not received such a vaccine, including by requiring the individual to engage in or refrain from engaging in activities or precautions that differ from the activities or precautions of an individual who has received such a vaccine. This provision of the bill does not apply to hospitals and health care facilities owned or operated by or affiliated with a state institution of higher education.

The fiscal effects of these provisions are uncertain.