



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Neil Townsend

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 221 of the 131st G.A.

Date: October 1, 2015

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Reps. Ruhl and Ashford

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: To revise the law regarding tobacco and nicotine use in public schools and at public school-sponsored functions

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill requires each local governing board to adopt a policy that provides for enforcement of the tobacco and nicotine prohibitions against all persons and establishes disciplinary measures for student violators. This requirement will have a negligible effect on each board's administrative burden.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Current law, which applies only to public schools operated by a school district or educational service center (ESC), prohibits a student from smoking, using, or possessing tobacco in any area under the control of a public school or at any activity supervised by a public school. The bill extends this tobacco prohibition in several ways. First, it prohibits any person, not just a student, from smoking, using, or possessing tobacco. Second, it includes outdoor facilities under the control of a public school in the tobacco ban. Third, it applies the prohibition to schools operated by school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools. Finally, under the bill, using tobacco includes chewing or maintaining not only tobacco, but also substances derived from tobacco. The bill also creates a new prohibition on nicotine use and possession; whereby the same provisions outlined above that apply to the prohibition of tobacco also apply to nicotine.

The bill requires the board of education of each school district and the governing board of each ESC to adopt a policy that provides for enforcement of the tobacco and nicotine prohibitions against all persons and establishes disciplinary measures for student violators. This requirement will have a negligible effect on each board's administrative burden. Any increase in district and ESC burdens to enforce the prohibitions and discipline violators will depend on the policies adopted by each school board or ESC governing board.