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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
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## Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.)

### H.B. 7 of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

#### Senate Finance

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H.B. 7 (As Passed by the House)	As Reported by S. Finance (I_135_3121)
<b>Help Me Grow</b>	
Requires the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (ODCY) to <i>establish</i> a comprehensive screening and connection program to support the coordination of home visiting services and regularly evaluate the program's effectiveness in coordinating those services (R.C. 3701.61(D), and beginning January 1, 2025, R.C. 5180.21(D)).	Instead, requires ODCY to <i>ensure</i> there is a <i>consistent</i> screening and connection program and evaluate the program's effectiveness at least once annually (R.C. 5180.21(D)).
Requires ODCY to coordinate home visiting services with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Commission on Minority Health, the Ohio Fatherhood Commission, and the Children's Trust Fund Board (R.C. 3701.61(D), and beginning January 1, 2025, R.C. 5180.21(D).)	Same, but removes the Ohio Fatherhood Commission and the Children's Trust Fund Board (R.C. 5180.21(D)).
Requires the ODCY Director to specify as eligible providers of home visiting services entities that demonstrate the use of evidence-based home visiting models (R.C. 3701.61(H)(2), and beginning January 1, 2025, R.C. 5180.21(H)(2)).	No provision, but current law already requires home visiting services to be provided through evidence-based home visiting models (R.C. 5180.21(A)).

<b>H.B. 7</b> <b>(As Passed by the House)</b>	<b>As Reported by S. Finance</b> <b>(I_135_3121)</b>
<p>Requires ODCY to ensure families and children receive services from programs using <i>evidence-based or evidence-informed models</i> that are appropriate to their level of needs (R.C. 3701.611(A) and (B)(3), and beginning January 1, 2025, R.C. 5180.22(A) and (B)(3)).</p>	<p>Instead, requires ODCY to ensure families and children receive services from programs that are appropriate to their level of needs (R.C. 5180.22(A) and (B)(3)).</p>
<p>Requires the independent contractor engaged by the Department of Education and Workforce to assign a data verification code to children in referred families to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of home visiting services (R.C. 3701.611(E), and beginning January 1, 2025, R.C. 5180.22(E)).</p>	<p>No provision.</p>
<p>Specifies that priority for home visiting services is to be given to families <i>at risk of being in, or engaged with</i>, the child welfare system (R.C. 3701.61(H), and beginning January 1, 2025, R.C. 5180.21(H).)</p>	<p>Specifies that priority is to be given to families who are <i>in</i> the child welfare system (R.C. 5180.21(H)).</p>
<p>Includes “programs that use other available evidence-based models or strategies” as a type of home visiting program that families and children may be referred to (R.C. 3701.611(B)(3), and beginning January 1, 2025, R.C. 5180.22(B)(3)).</p>	<p>No provision.</p>
<p>Authorizes the ODCY Director to allow the provision of home visiting services to be supplemented by services available online and through electronic means (R.C. 3701.61(H)(3), and beginning January 1, 2025, R.C. 5180.21(H)(3)).</p>	<p>No provision.</p>
<p>Requires ODCY to regularly evaluate the effectiveness of providers using evidence-based home visiting models, including challenges to participation in rural and Appalachian communities (R.C. 3701.61(I), and beginning January 1, 2025, R.C. 5180.21(I)).</p>	<p>No provision.</p>

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<p>No provision.</p> <p>Requires ODCY, in collaboration with ODJFS and ODM, to <i>develop</i> strategies to increase the workforce capacity of home visiting service providers and parenting support professionals (R.C. 3701.61(J), and beginning January 1, 2025, R.C. 5180.21(J)).</p> <p>Appropriates \$5.0 million in FY 2024 and \$3.0 million in FY 2025 in GRF line item 830403, Help Me Grow, under ODCY's budget, to provide funds as follows: \$2.0 million in FY 2024 for home visiting services and to screen infants born at low birth weights and between the ages of 28 to 38 weeks and the remaining funds in each fiscal year to be used for Help Me Grow-related and fatherhood and parenting education-related programs (Section 16).</p>	<p>Requires the ODCY Director to include in an existing annual report an evaluation of variation in outcomes between the provider types outlined in the bill (R.C. 5180.21(F)(3)).</p> <p>Instead, requires ODCY, in collaboration with ODJFS and ODM, to <i>propose</i> these strategies (R.C. 5180.21(I)).</p> <p>No provision.</p>
<b>WIC enrollment</b>	
<p>Requires ODH to investigate and determine the feasibility of incorporating a variety of changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) enrollment and benefit distribution process (Section 7).</p> <p>Requires ODH to submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the results of its investigation (Section 7).</p> <p>No provision.</p> <p>Appropriates \$2.0 million in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 in GRF line item 440416, Mothers and Children Safety Net Services, under ODH's budget, to support the bill's WIC-related provisions, including investing and evaluating</p>	<p>Instead, requires ODH to investigate and determine the services and tools available at the federal level and implemented in other states that could be used in Ohio to increase access to and use of WIC (Section 3).</p> <p>Same, and requires the report to include a plan to increase WIC access and use (Section 3).</p> <p>Requires ODH to submit quarterly reports to the General Assembly for two years detailing progress on implementing its plan to increase WIC access and use (Section 3).</p> <p>No provision.</p>

<b>H.B. 7</b> <b>(As Passed by the House)</b>	<b>As Reported by S. Finance</b> <b>(I_135_3121)</b>
<p>strategies to create an integrated eligibility determination application for both WIC and SNAP and investigating and determining the feasibility of federal waivers to permit telephone and video calls to complete WIC enrollment and creating pilot opportunities (<i>Section 14</i>).</p>	
<b>Early childhood mental health services</b>	
<p>Requires the Medicaid Director to evaluate, clarify, and update the Medicaid program's coverage of evidence-based and evidence-informed mental health and dyadic family therapy services for children and their caregivers by June 30, 2025 (<i>Section 12(A)</i>).</p>	<p>Moves the deadline to meet this requirement to June 30, 2026 (<i>Section 5(A)</i>).</p>
<p>Requires the above evaluation and updates to address mental health screening for mothers and young children and include follow-up for family dyadic therapies and other child mental health services for those with identified risks (<i>Section 12(A)</i>).</p>	<p>No provision.</p>
<p>Requires the Medicaid Director to develop policy and billing guidance for Medicaid providers to improve the consistency of early childhood screenings delivered in primary care settings (<i>Section 12(A)(2)</i>).</p>	<p>No provision.</p>
<p>Requires a report within one year of the bill's effective date (<i>Section 12(B)</i>).</p>	<p>Instead, requires a report by June 30, 2027 (<i>Section 5(B)</i>).</p>
<b>Head Start and Step Up to Quality</b>	
<p>Requires ODJFS to rate each licensed child day-care center and family day-care home operating or under contract to provide a Head Start or Early-Head Start program in the Step Up to Quality tier that ODJFS has determined corresponds with minimum Head Start or National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards (<i>R.C. 5104.291</i>).</p>	<p>Instead, requires, beginning July 1, 2025, ODCY to rate those providers <i>and</i> licensed centers and homes accredited by NAEYC in the Step Up to Quality tier ODCY has determined corresponds with minimum Head Start or NAEYC standards (<i>R.C. 5104.291</i>).</p>

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Specifies that ODJFS “shall prescribe the manner in which a program <i>is to</i> demonstrate to the department <i>satisfaction of</i> the requirements of this section” (R.C. 5104.291(C)).	Instead, specifies that ODCY “shall prescribe the manner in which a program <i>shall</i> demonstrate to the department <i>that the program is meeting</i> the requirements of this section” (R.C. 5104.291(C)).
Parenting programs	
Requires ODJFS, in collaboration with other state agencies, to develop strategies for state agencies to use in informing parents, caregivers, and child care providers about parenting education programs, including Triple P, and in promoting their benefits (R.C. 5101.91).	Instead requires that ODCY ensure that state agencies have information to communicate with parents, caregivers, and child care providers about such programs and promote their benefits, but does not specify Triple P or require collaboration with other state departments (R.C. 5180.40).
Pregnancy and postpartum mobile application	
Requires ODH, in collaboration with ODM, to issue a request for proposals for the creation of a mobile application that provides information and resources to pregnant and postpartum women in Ohio who are eligible for Medicaid (Section 8).	No provision.
Appropriates \$500,000 in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 in GRF line item 440484, Public Health Technology Innovation, under ODH’s budget, to be used for the creation of a pregnancy and postpartum mobile application (Section 14).	No provision.
Early Intervention Part C	
Requires Early Intervention (EI) Part C rules to deem infants born before 28 weeks of gestational age eligible for EI without other required conditions (R.C. 5123.0421(A) and, beginning January 1, 2025, R.C. 5180.32(A)).	No provision.
Requires EI rules to grant to infants born between 28-38 weeks gestational age home visiting services, including a developmental screening, and if appropriate, a referral for EI services (R.C. 5123.0421(A) and, beginning January 1, 2025, R.C. 5180.32(A)).	No provision.

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Requires ODCY to include information regarding the above services in its annual report and provide a copy to the General Assembly ( <i>R.C. 5123.0421(A) and, beginning January 1, 2025, R.C. 5180.32(A)</i> ).	No provision.
Appropriates \$2.0 million in FY 2024 in GRF line item 830405, Part C Early Intervention, under ODCY's budget, to provide early intervention services to infants born before 28 weeks of gestational age and infants born between 28 to 38 weeks of gestational age. Reappropriates the unencumbered balance at the end of FY 2024 to FY 2025 ( <i>Section 16</i> ).	No provision.
<b>Medical legal partnership grant program</b>	
Requires ODH to establish a program to award grants to legal service organizations and medical providers that partner together to identify pregnant women, mothers, and children in need of legal services and to provide them with those services ( <i>Section 9</i> ).	No provision.
Appropriates \$1.0 million in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 in GRF line item 440485, Health Program Support, under ODH's budget, to be used for medical legal partnership grant awards ( <i>Section 14</i> ).	No provision.
<b>Doula services</b>	
Establishes a program in the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction for certified doulas to provide doula services to inmates in a prison nursery program ( <i>R.C. 5120.658</i> ).	No provision.
Eliminates a five-year sunset of current law doula certification requirements ( <i>Section 3</i> ).	No provision.
<b>Infant vitality</b>	
Appropriates \$1.0 million in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 in GRF line item 830404, Infant Vitality, under ODCY's budget, to fund Centering	No provision.

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<p>Pregnancy services and other evidence-based and evidence-informed group pregnancy education programs and targeted outreach in areas of the state where there are gaps in those services (<i>Section 16</i>).</p> <p>Appropriates \$1.0 million in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 in GRF line item 830404, Infant Vitality, under ODCY's budget, to establish a community-based grant program to expand access to infant vitality supports (<i>Section 16</i>).</p>	No provision.
<b>Healthy Beginnings at Home</b>	
<p>Appropriates \$5.0 million in FY 2024 and \$3.0 million in FY 2025 in GRF line item 830402, Healthy Beginnings at Home, under ODCY's budget, to support stable housing initiatives for pregnant mothers and to improve maternal and infant health outcomes (<i>Section 16</i>).</p> <p>Requires ODCY to submit a report within one year of the bill's effective date detailing the number of families served, the number and type of services provided, and outcome metrics (<i>Section 16</i>).</p>	<p>No provision.</p> <p>No provision.</p>
<b>Resiliency grant pilot program</b>	
<p>Requires ODJFS to establish a pilot program to assist in the development of quality, comprehensive child care programs like Early Head Start across Ohio, with an emphasis on communities experiencing both high infant mortality rates and families at risk of being in the child welfare system who have limited access to child care (<i>Section 11</i>).</p> <p>Appropriates \$3.0 million in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 in GRF line item 600566, Resiliency Grant Pilot Program, under ODJFS's budget, to fund the Resiliency Grant Pilot Program (<i>Section 15</i>).</p>	<p>No provision.</p> <p>No provision.</p>

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<b>Hearing aid coverage</b>	
Requires health plan issuers to cover hearing aids and related services for persons 21 years of age and younger ( <i>R.C. 3902.63</i> ).	No provision.
<b>Designation</b>	
Designates the act the “Strong Foundations Act” ( <i>Section 19</i> ).	No provision.