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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 98**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 98's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Santucci and Williams

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- The bill appropriates \$8.0 million from lottery profits in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 for the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to support the newly created Community Connectors Workforce Program to connect students to jobs and internships in their communities. The program will be overseen by DEW and administered by educational service centers.

### **Detailed Analysis**

The bill requires the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to establish and oversee the Community Connectors Workforce Program that is designed to connect students to jobs, internships, and career professionals in their communities. The bill supports the program with appropriations of \$8.0 million from lottery profits in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027. DEW will distribute these funds to educational service centers (ESCs) to employ at least one, but not more than three, directors to administer the program in the high schools the ESC serves (the bill makes the requirement for ESCs to employ the program directors contingent on state appropriations). ESCs are responsible for determining the appropriate number of program directors and any eligibility or application requirements for them, except that the bill requires the program directors to have experience in job placement, school counseling, or primary and secondary education.

The program directors must identify jobs, apprenticeships, and internships in the community, determine the number of students that may participate, select students through an application and interview process, and provide classroom instruction in soft skills and professional skills training, including problem solving, time management, creative and critical thinking, communication and civility, and ethics. If a district or school already offers similar instruction, the director must collaborate with the instructors, other appropriate school officials

that have commensurate experience, and professionals who support career development in the school. The bill also requires the program directors to report certain program information to the employing ESC and DEW.