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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 95
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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Version: As Reported by House Workforce and Higher Education

Primary Sponsors: Reps. A. White and Stewart

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Jason Glover, Senior Budget Analyst

Highlights

- The bill appropriates more than \$1.1 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 from the GRF for the Ohio Department of Higher Education to support higher education institutions that are members of the Ohio Veterans Education Council.

Detailed Analysis

The bill appropriates more than \$1.1 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 from new GRF line item 235450, Military and Veterans Offices, for the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) to support higher education institutions that are members of the Ohio Veterans Education Council (OVEC), an organization dedicated to assisting veterans in accessing educational opportunities in the state. Currently, OVEC has approximately 50 member institutions, including all 13 public universities. The bill earmarks the following from line item 235450 in each fiscal year:

- \$255,000 for grants to military and veterans offices at institutions of higher education to support growth in private philanthropy, in collaboration with the National Veterans Leadership Foundation (NVLF), an Ohio-based nonprofit organization that partners with colleges and universities nationwide to enhance the higher education experience for military-connected students;
- Up to \$213,750 for ODHE to award scholarships of \$2,500 per student to students who serve as a Military Community Advocate (MCA), including up to six MCAs at each OVEC public university and up to three MCAs at each of the other OVEC institutions;
- \$91,800 to sponsor staff from military and veterans offices at institutions across the state to attend NVLF's Advancement Institute; and

- The remainder (at least \$583,450) to support NVLF's administrative costs, create a website to connect veterans to programs and offerings at OVEC member institutions, administer membership and Ohio Purple Star status, facilitate information sharing, and support any other expenses deemed appropriate by ODHE in consultation with NVLF.

Altogether, ODHE's administrative workload may increase to administer these scholarships and grants. Funding to support the operating expenses of all student financial aid programs administered by ODHE is provided by GRF line item 235414, Grants and Scholarship Administration, which had expenditures of approximately \$984,000 in FY 2024 to support financial awards for over 67,000 students. The bill also authorizes ODHE to consult with the Director of Veterans Services as needed for assistance.