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H.B. 127
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 127's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Education

Primary Sponsors: Reps. A. Mathews and Odioso

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill may decrease administrative workload or costs for school districts and other public schools if districts and schools opt to withhold student directory information.

Detailed Analysis

Currently, student directory information generally is considered public information.¹ Under current law, school districts and other public schools may disclose student directory information without consent. However, they must annually notify students and parents of their right to withhold this information and comply with any requests to do so.

The bill allows districts and schools to uniformly withhold student directory information, though a district or school may release student directory information to the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network, information technology centers, and educational service centers (these organizations provide various services and support for districts and schools) regardless of whether it chooses to release student directory information to other entities. Similarly, a district or school is not required to take any action to elect to release student directory information to an entity if the entity and the district have entered into an agreement that authorizes release of directory information to that entity.

If a district or school opts to withhold student directory information, its administrative workload or costs may decrease, as it may respond to fewer public records requests. In addition, the bill may reduce the staff time and any expense for such districts and schools associated with

¹ Directory information is defined as a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of athletes, dates of attendance, date of graduation, and awards received.

tracking parental directory information “opt out” requests. According to the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA), districts and schools typically comply with current law’s opt out provisions by asking parents or guardians, when filling out forms (typically in electronic format) at the beginning of a school year, to check a box to indicate if they want their child’s directory information withheld. The district or school’s records management staff create a list of parents and their children who have opted out and share the list with necessary personnel.