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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 257
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 257's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Weinstein

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill appropriates \$500,000 in FY 2026 in GRF ALI 440485 to establish the Support Children's Overall Psychological and Emotional Health (SCOPE) pilot program and reappropriates the available balance of the appropriation for FY 2027.

Detailed Analysis

The bill establishes the Support Children's Overall Psychological and Emotional Health (SCOPE) pilot program, which would provide mental health services to individuals eligible for the Program for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs. The SCOPE Pilot Program would be established in collaboration between the Department of Health (ODH) and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). It must address mental health conditions that are commonly experienced by children and families managing complex medical issues. The bill requires that the SCOPE pilot program will terminate after one year or when funding is exhausted, whichever occurs first. Upon its termination, ODH and DBH must jointly survey participating families to assess the pilot program's effectiveness.

The bill appropriates \$500,000 for fiscal year 2026 in GRF ALI 440485 to support the SCOPE pilot program. The bill permits the Director of Health to certify to the Director of Budget and Management an amount up to the unexpended, unencumbered balance at the end of FY 2026 to be reappropriated for FY 2027.