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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 371
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 371's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Plummer and Young

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Ryan Sherrock, Senior Economist, and other LBO staff

Highlights

- Public children services agencies might realize an increase in investigative costs if the bill's provision results in additional reports of abuse or neglect.

Detailed Analysis

The bill makes elected officials mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. The bill also subjects elected officials to the same reporting requirements as other mandatory reporters, except that an elected official must make a report regardless of whether the official is acting in an official or professional capacity or not. The report must be made to a public children services agency (PCSA) or a peace officer in the applicable county or to the State Highway Patrol, in the case of a child who is an inmate in a state correctional institution. PCSAs might experience additional costs to investigate reports of child abuse or neglect if this provision results in additional reported cases. Such investigations may lead to subsequent criminal charges, impacting local criminal justice systems.

The bill does not subject elected officials to the criminal penalties under existing law to which other mandatory reporters are subject for a failure to make a report. As such, there will be no fiscal effects on counties and municipalities in terms of their annual costs to prosecute and sanction violators or the collection of related revenues (fines and court costs and fees).¹

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¹ The criminal penalty for other reporters is generally a misdemeanor of the fourth degree, punishable by a possible jail term of not more than 30 days, a fine of up to \$250, or both.