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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 189
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 189's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. T. Hall and Ghanbari

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Department of Public Safety (DPS) will incur costs, likely in the millions of dollars, to implement the bill's provisions, including the development of a threat management portal to be used by public and chartered nonpublic schools to facilitate electronic threat assessment reporting and documentation.
- DPS estimates that one to two additional staff members may be needed to complete the quarterly portal access review audit process required under the bill.
- School districts and other public schools may incur minimal administrative costs when complying with the quarterly portal access review audit process.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) in consultation with the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to develop: (1) a statewide behavioral threat management operational process to identify, assess, manage, and monitor potential and real threats to schools, (2) a behavioral threat assessment document to be used to evaluate the behavior of students who may pose a threat to the school, school staff, or other students and coordinate intervention and services for those students, and (3) a threat management portal to be used by public and chartered nonpublic schools to facilitate electronic threat assessment reporting and documentation. The bill places additional requirements on DPS related to access to the threat management portal, training for public and chartered nonpublic school personnel, and evaluating schools' compliance with the bill's requirements.

Department of Public Safety

Threat management portal

According to DPS, the costs to implement the bill's threat management portal requirements are indeterminate but likely to be in the millions of dollars, with implementation time taking from one to two years, depending on whether the portal is procured from a private vendor or built internally with existing staff.¹ DPS indicates that the timeframe to build the portal internally would likely take longer (up to two years). The bill provides no additional funding for these costs. The Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC), which is housed within DPS, would likely be responsible for implementing the bill's requirements, and currently has a school safety plan portal. However, that portal does not have the capabilities necessary to accommodate the type and volume of users that H.B. 189 would require. Furthermore, it is unlikely that the existing portal could be modified to meet the necessary functionality requirements without violating the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, which provides certain rights for parents regarding their children's education records.

Threat management portal – unauthorized access and fines

The bill requires DPS to adopt rules regarding which personnel are authorized to access the threat management portal. Unauthorized individuals who access the portal may be fined up to \$2,000. Any fine revenue received under the bill would be credited to the Emergency Management Agency Service and Reimbursement Fund (Fund 4V30), which is used to pay the costs of administering Ohio Emergency Management Agency programs.² The magnitude of any revenue generated will depend on the number of people who access the portal without authorization under rules adopted by DPS.

Audits and training

DPS estimates that one to two additional staff members may be needed to audit school contacts in the threat management portal for the bill's required quarterly portal access review since school staff turnover tends to be high. DPS may also incur minimal one-time costs to develop a statewide behavioral threat management operational process and a behavioral threat assessment document. The bill's training and compliance provisions are generally expected to be handled by existing staff.

Public schools

The bill requires school districts; community schools; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) schools; and chartered nonpublic schools to use the threat management portal and comply with the quarterly access review audit process. School districts and other public schools may incur minimal administrative costs to develop portal access policies that align with the bill's requirements and to comply with the requirements of the quarterly portal access review audit process. Most likely, such costs will involve the training of staff in the use and implementation of this new portal.

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¹ The bill requires that the new portal be available by August 1, 2025, which is past.

² R.C. 5502.39.