



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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**Bill:** H.B. 548 of the 131st G.A.

**Date:** May 17, 2016

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Rep. Schuring

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Contents:** To change the authority of certified registered nurse anesthetists to select, order, and administer drugs and to direct certain other persons to administer drugs or perform clinical support functions

### State Fiscal Highlights

- The Ohio Nursing Board and Ohio Respiratory Care Board may experience an increase in costs related to investigating and sanctioning their respective certified professionals.

### Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

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### Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill grants a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) the authority to select, order, and administer drugs if specified conditions are met, authorizes a CRNA to direct another licensed or certified person to administer the drug or perform clinical support functions, and provides legal immunity to the supervising physician, dentist, or podiatrist for actions of the CRNA. CRNAs are advanced practice registered nurses who have completed an accredited post-graduate training program and passed a national certifying exam that qualifies them to administer all types of anesthesia independently. As of June 30, 2015, 2,988 CRNAs held an active license with the Ohio Nursing Board. The bill would not impose any new regulatory requirements on the Ohio Nursing Board, but would expand the authority of CRNAs to supervise a respiratory care professional licensed by the Ohio Respiratory Care Board; the respiratory care professional's administration of medicine would be limited to the drugs that the CRNA is authorized to order.

The bill may result in an increase in investigations and sanctions by the Ohio Nursing Board and the Ohio Respiratory Care Board to their respective certified professionals, resulting in potential increased costs. Additionally, the Ohio Board of Nursing may need to adopt rules to provide a framework for the expanded authority of CRNAs outlined in this bill.

CRNAs who issue orders for drugs or direct other licensed persons to administer drugs in a manner that violates the provisions of the bill are guilty of a fifth degree felony on the first offense and a fourth degree felony on each subsequent offense. Violations of the bill's criminal provisions are expected to be very few in number. This means there is not likely to be any discernible annual increase in state and local criminal justice system expenditures and little, if any, court cost and fine revenue generated for the state or any of its political subdivisions. Even so, it is very unlikely that a CRNA convicted of a fifth or fourth degree felony for a regulatory offense would face time in prison. As a result, there would likely be no discernible increase in the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's annual incarceration costs.

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