



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 340 of the 132nd G.A.
(L_132_1421-2)

Status: In House Community and Family Advancement

Sponsor: Rep. Young

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Information releases for public assistance recipients

State Fiscal Highlights

- The Ohio departments of Job and Family Services and Medicaid may experience costs if any required information technology upgrades are necessary to implement the bill.
- The Attorney General may experience an administrative cost if asked to develop a formal opinion regarding whether an entity can comply with a request to provide access to information. The cost will depend on the number of formal opinions developed.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- County departments of job and family services, public children services agencies, and child support enforcement agencies may experience administrative costs to train workers on new information-access requirements and how to use the systems newly available to them.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill makes several changes to state laws regarding access to information about applicants for, and recipients of, public and medical assistance programs. First, the bill requires the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), county departments of job and family services (CDJFS), public children services agencies (PCSA), and Medicaid managed care organizations to provide access to information about assistance recipients to entities administering assistance programs. The bill also requires child support enforcement agencies (CSEAs) as well as ODJFS, county departments, and PCSAs to provide access to information included in a child support order to entities administering federal or state assistance programs or services. Under current law, ODJFS, ODM, CDJFSs, PCSAs, and CSEAs may release this information in certain circumstances (e.g., ODJFS can provide an address of a public assistance recipient to a CDJFS to help complete an application). In addition to requiring this information access, Medicaid managed care

organizations are also required to provide access and receive information about public assistance applicants. Current law does not allow for this information to be shared between medical assistance programs and other assistance programs.

The bill further requires access to information about public assistance applicants and recipients to be provided to government entities administering medical assistance programs, while also requiring that information about medical assistance applicants and recipients be provided with government entities administering public assistance programs.

Providing access to information may pose a cost to ODJFS and ODM. The cost will depend on what information technology upgrades (e.g., providing access to additional individuals or security enhancements) are required to existing computer systems to facilitate this access. These existing systems include Ohio Benefits, the Client Registry Information System – Enhanced (CRIS-E), and the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), among others. Additionally, CDJFSs, PCSAs, and CSEAs may experience an increase in costs in order to train workers to utilize systems they may be unfamiliar with and to comply with the new information-access requirements of the bill.

Additionally, the bill requires ODJFS or ODM to submit a request to the Attorney General (AG) for a formal opinion if an entity determines it cannot comply with a request to provide access to information. The AG will experience an administrative cost if asked to develop a formal opinion. The cost will depend on the number of formal opinions developed.

Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes

The substitute bill (L_132_1421-2) includes several changes from the As Introduced version. First, the substitute bill requires CSEAs to provide access to information included in a child support order to entities administering assistance programs. This may result in additional costs in the form of possible information technology upgrades and training costs for both CSEA employees and workers at other entities regarding the information in which CSEAs will provide access.

Second, the substitute bill specifies that all of the respective entities "provide access" to the information required; the As Introduced version of the bill used the phrase "be provided" regarding medical assistance programs and the terms "release" or "disclose" regarding the information for all other entities. This change does not alter the fiscal effects of the bill.

Third, the substitute bill adds a provision that specifies if ODJFS, ODM, a CDJFS, CSEA, or PCSA determines that it cannot comply with the bill's requirements, then ODJFS or ODM must asked the Attorney General (AG) for a formal opinion on whether it can comply. The AG will experience an administrative cost if it is asked to develop a formal opinion.