



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 533 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Pelanda

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Foster caregiver training and home assessor requirements

State Fiscal Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will save approximately \$100,000 annually in reduced stipend costs for foster care providers to receive and renew their certificates.
- ODJFS will experience a minimal cost to promulgate rules regarding training requirements for a sheriff's office employee who wishes to conduct home studies.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Public children services agencies (PCSAs) may see a reduction in costs and subsequent reimbursements from ODJFS due to fewer hours of training for new and renewal certificates for foster homes being required.
- A sheriff's office that chooses to provide employees with training and conducts home studies will experience an increase in costs.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

H.B. 533 makes changes to the required training for foster care home providers and allows a county sheriff or designee to conduct home studies of foster care homes under certain circumstances.

Preplacement and continuing training

The bill reduces the minimum number of hours of training required to receive and renew a foster care home certificate from:

- 36 hours to 21 hours for preplacement training for a family or specialized foster home;
- 40 hours to 20 hours for biennial continuing training for a family foster home; and
- 60 hours to 30 hours for biennial continuing training for a specialized foster home.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reimburses foster caregivers for the time for their training at a rate of \$10 per training hour.¹ The bill will result in a savings to the state by reducing the number of hours the state reimburses. According to ODJFS, the state had 7,283 foster homes in FY 2017. Of these, 1,255 were new foster homes, 2,650 were existing foster homes, and 3,378 were specialized foster homes. Based on these numbers, ODJFS would save about \$100,000 annually due to new foster homes requiring 15 fewer hours of training, family foster homes requiring 20 fewer hours of training biannually, and specialized foster care homes requiring 30 fewer hours of training biannually. The Department would also spend less on reimbursements to entities that provide the training. Public children services agencies (PCSAs) that provide such training will experience a reduction in costs and subsequent reimbursements. However, ODJFS and local PCSAs may experience additional costs if the reduced training leads to any additional investigations. While recommending agencies (including PCSAs and private entities) can provide additional trainings beyond the minimum required hours, ODJFS will not provide reimbursements for these hours.

The bill also specifies that preplacement training may be provided online. A PCSA that develops an online training program may be able to reduce costs for future trainings.

Home study assessors

The bill permits an employee of a county sheriff's office to conduct a home study of a family foster home or treatment foster home if:

- A PCSA or other entity authorized to conduct a home study requests it; and
- The employee has completed training requirements specified by ODJFS.

Any sheriff's office that chooses to have employees complete the training will experience costs; however, participating in the training is permissive. This provision may shift the cost of completing home studies from PCSAs in these cases. Additionally, ODJFS will experience a minimal cost to promulgate rules that establish the training requirements.

¹ O.A.C. 5101:2-5-38.