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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 235
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 235's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Fowler Arthur

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

Fund	FY 2027	Future Years
Fund 4L20 State Board of Education Licensure Fund		
Expenditures	Decrease of \$27,200	Decrease of \$54,400 in FY 2028 and each year thereafter

Note: The state or school district fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30 and is designated by the calendar year in which it ends. For other local governments, the fiscal year is identical to the calendar year.

- The bill's elimination of four seats on the State Board of Education (SBE) on January 1, 2027, will decrease SBE's expenditures each year beginning in FY 2027, with the annual decrease reaching about \$54,400 in FY 2028 and each year thereafter.

Detailed Analysis

State Board of Education

Under current law, the State Board of Education consists of 19 voting members. The Governor appoints eight of the members while the remaining 11 members are elected from districts representing different parts of the state. The bill requires that all voting members be elected from districts that are coterminous with Ohio congressional districts and establishes a process to transition the State Board to the new membership structure.

Since the 2020 decennial census, Ohio has had 15 congressional districts. Thus, the bill will reduce the size of the State Board from 19 to 15 members by eliminating four of the eight seats filled via executive appointment and replacing the other four seats filled via executive appointment with elected members. Appointed members of the State Board serving as of the

bill's effective date will continue to serve until their terms end. At that point, the seat will be eliminated or replaced with a member elected in the 2024 or 2026 general elections. Beginning January 1, 2027, the State Board's voting membership will entirely consist of elected members representing the 15 new State Board districts.

State Board members are paid an hourly rate of \$32.02. The number of hours an individual Board member works varies depending on a number of factors, such as whether they attend conferences and how often they visit schools. State Board members also are eligible for benefits such as retirement and health insurance and may be reimbursed for travel expenses. The table below lists the average salary and fringe benefits and travel reimbursements for each State Board member in FY 2023. These costs for State Board members were paid from the GRF in line item 200321, Operating Expenses, in the Ohio Department of Education's budget. H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly established the State Board as a separate entity with its own budget, and beginning in FY 2024 the costs for member salaries, benefits, and reimbursements are paid out of Fund 4L20, the Teacher Certification and Licensure Fund. H.B. 33 also transferred most of the State Board's authority regarding K-12 education governance to the Director of the newly renamed and reorganized Department of Education and Workforce (DEW).

Average State Board of Education Member Payroll Costs and Travel Reimbursements, FY 2023	
Expense Category	Average Amount
Salary and fringe benefits	\$11,500
Travel reimbursements	\$2,100
Total	\$13,600

Currently, four appointed members' terms expire at the end of December 2024, while the remaining four appointed members' terms expire at the end of December 2026. However, four new elected members will begin their terms of service at the beginning of January 2025 under the bill. This means that there will continue to be 19 members on the State Board until the end of December 2026. At this point, the phase-in ends and the State Board will then consist of 15 elected members. As a result, State Board expenses will begin to decrease in FY 2027, when the State Board's voting membership is first reduced to 15 total members.

Since State Board members' terms end halfway through a fiscal year, the decrease for FY 2027 is estimated at about \$27,200 (\$13,600 annual average per member x 50% x four member seats eliminated). The decrease will grow to \$54,400 in FY 2028 and each year thereafter, as the impact of the four fewer State Board members begins accruing over a full fiscal year (\$13,600 annual average per member x four member seats eliminated). As a point of reference, total payroll costs and travel reimbursements for State Board members in FY 2023 were about \$302,000. However, costs after FY 2023 might be lower than the FY 2023 figures as a result of the transfer of duties and responsibilities from the State Board to DEW in H.B. 33, reducing the potential workload for the remaining board members.

Boards of elections

The bill would impose two additional costs on county boards of elections, both of which appear to be minimal. First, the bill moves elections for State Board of Education members to a partisan ballot. This would require including some races on a primary ballot when needed. These primary elections would occur during the course of regularly held primary elections; therefore, the addition of one more race on that ballot could result in some minimal ballot printing cost increases.

Additionally, county boards of elections will incur one-time minimal costs associated with revising the Board of Education member district lines to mirror State Board districts with those of congressional districts as required by the bill and beginning with the general election on November 5, 2024. Any future revisions of these boundaries would coincide with changes to congressional districts, thereby making any future costs of aligning state school board member districts with those of congressional districts negligible.