



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

**Bill:** H.B. 420 of the 132nd G.A.

**Status:** As Reported by Senate Health, Human Services, & Medicaid

**Sponsor:** Reps. Sykes and Boyd

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Subject:** Designates November as Ohio Adoption Awareness Month and makes changes to occupational licensing and criminal records checks

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### State Fiscal Highlights

- The State Speech and Hearing Professionals (SHP) Board is required to adopt rules establishing the amount of fees required under the Hearing Aid Dealers Law. Any impact on fee revenue will depend on the rules adopted.
- The SHP Board's licenses will be renewed biennially rather than annually. This could result in one-time administrative and information technology costs. In addition, there will be a temporary change in the timing of revenues and expenditures that should resolve after the first licensing cycle is complete.
- The SHP Board could realize an increase in administrative and investigative costs due to, among other things, the expansion of investigatory duties.
- The State Vision Professionals Board may experience a minimal increase in costs to provide necessary forms to applicants.

### Detailed Fiscal Analysis

#### Ohio Adoption Awareness Month

The bill designates the month of November as Ohio Adoption Awareness Month. This provision has no fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions.

#### State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

The bill requires a hearing aid dealer's or fitter's license to be renewed biennially rather than annually as required under current law. There could be one-time administrative and information technology costs associated with adjusting the renewal schedule. In addition, the change in the renewal schedule would impact the timing of licensing revenues deposits, as well as the administrative costs associated with processing licenses. However, this impact would only be temporary and would resolve once the first biennial cycle was complete.

Under the bill, the SHP Board is required to adopt certain rules, including establishing the amount of any fee required under the Hearing Aid Dealers Law. The

bill eliminates the statutorily specified fees. The SHP Board will experience an increase in administrative costs to adopt rules. Any impact on fee revenue will depend on the rules adopted.

The bill also expands the SHP Board's investigatory duties from investigating specific complaints to investigating all alleged irregularities in the sale or practice of dealing in or fitting hearing aids by any licensee or permit holder, as well as any violations of the Hearing Aid Dealers Law or rules. The bill also revises the list of reasons for which the SHP Board may discipline a licensee or permit holder and expands the types of disciplinary actions the Board may take after finding a licensee or permit holder has violated the Hearing Aid Dealers Law or a rule adopted by the SHP Board. The SHP Board will experience an increase in administrative and investigative costs related to these provisions, which may result in additional investigations, hearings, and disciplinary action taken by the SHP Board. The cost will depend on the number of complaints and/or disciplinary hearings, as well as the scope of each.

### **State Vision Professionals Board**

The bill requires the State Vision Professionals Board to provide each applicant for an optical dispensing license with all forms required to apply for examination, instead of permitting a testing service to provide the forms. The Board may experience a minimal increase in costs to provide the necessary forms to applicants.

### **Criminal background checks for Medicaid providers**

The bill revises a recently enacted provision in S.B. 229 that generally allows a Medicaid provider to employ persons who have not undergone a criminal records check or who have records of disqualifying offenses. The bill limits the exemption as follows: to Medicaid providers of behavioral health services, to behavioral health professionals who hold or are seeking licenses, and to employees who are certified or seeking certification as peer recovery supporters. The bill retains the requirement in S.B. 229 that prohibits Medicaid claims from being submitted for the employee's services.