

Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Office of Research and Drafting Legislative Budget Office



Version: As Reported by House Finance

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Brown and Stoltzfus

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Dan Redmond, Budget Analyst

The bill appropriates GRF funding of \$5.5 million in each of FY 2020 and FY 2021 within the Office of the Governor to operate the newly created Office of Drug Policy. The bill establishes the new office to formulate policies, seek increased funding and resources, coordinate efforts and information sharing across agencies and local governments, and perform other tasks related to the prevention of drug abuse, addiction, and overdose deaths, including the establishment of a publicly available online database of federal, state, and local resources available for drug use prevention and treatment. The bill requires the Governor to appoint an executive director and other necessary staff to manage the office and perform its duties. Please see the LSC Bill Analysis for more detail on the bill's provisions regarding the Office of Drug Policy.

Background on drug policy offices in other states

A handful of states have created state offices of drug policy within their governor's office. States with a similar office to the one proposed by the bill include Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, and Louisiana, according to research conducted in 2018 for the state of Michigan's Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Commission.¹ Other states may address drug policy through administrative entities within cabinet departments. State offices of drug policy tend to have relatively small staffing levels – six or fewer employees in the states we reviewed. For example, at the upper end, the Idaho Office of Drug Policy consists of an administrator, a program planning and development specialist, two grants coordinators, a research analyst, and an administrative assistant. Smaller numbers of staff are employed in Kentucky and Iowa, at

¹ Olumolade, Toyin, et al. "Exploration of Offices of Drug Policy in various states in the U.S.," May 11, 2018, available online at https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/5-24-2018_PDOAC_Approved_ Mins.doc_1_626836_7.pdf (starting on page 77 of the PDF document).

three each. The Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy maintains an executive director, a program manager, and an administrative assistant while the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy in Iowa employs a director, an assistant director of drug and crime control programs, and a budget analyst.