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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 126
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 126's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Manning

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Ryan Sherrock, Economist, and other LBO staff

Highlights

- The bill appropriates an additional \$3.64 million in FY 2021 from the GRF to fund a \$70,000 grant to each educational service center to support the employment of a licensed independent social worker.
- The bill allows mental health professionals to provide crisis assessments of minors without the consent or knowledge of the minor's parent, legal guardian, or custodian in specified situations. If any government entities provide these crisis assessments, their costs could increase. However, if the minor is covered under an insurance health plan or Medicaid, these costs could be offset by any reimbursements received.
- The bill requires the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to adopt certain rules, which would result in a minimal increase in rule promulgation costs.

Detailed Analysis

Department of Education

The bill increases GRF line item 200550, Foundation Funding, in the Ohio Department of Education budget, by \$3.64 million in FY 2021 to fund a \$70,000 grant to each educational service center (ESC) to support the employment of a licensed independent social worker who may coordinate policy implementation and other services. There are 52 ESCs across the state, serving approximately 1.5 million students. For the 2018-2019 school year, ESCs reported employing approximately 85 full-time equivalent (FTE) social workers with an average salary of about \$41,000. The major additional payroll costs associated with a public employee are for providing benefits such as retirement and health insurance. Assuming that fringe benefits costs amount to about 40% of salary, the total average payroll costs for an ESC social worker position would be about \$57,000. There may also be equipment, supplies, and other ancillary costs associated with these positions.

Mental Health and Addiction Services

The bill allows mental health professionals to provide crisis assessments of minors without the consent or knowledge of the minor's parent, legal guardian, or custodian if both of the following are the case: the mental health professional believes, or has received credible information from an adult supervising the minor, that the minor is suicidal or poses a risk of physical harm to others, and the minor's parent, legal guardian, or custodian is not available to provide consent. If any government entities provide these crisis assessments, their costs could increase. However, if the minor is covered under an insurance health plan or Medicaid, these costs could be offset by any reimbursements received. The total cost will depend on the number of assessments provided and the amount of reimbursements received.

Additionally, the bill requires the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services to adopt rules identifying the types of mental health professionals who are permitted to provide outpatient mental health services and crisis assessments to minors 14 years of age and older. The process of adopting these rules could result in minimal, one-time administrative costs.