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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

H.B. 8
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 8's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Enacted

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Manchester and Galonski

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) could see an increase or decrease in costs related to foster caregivers depending on what rules are promulgated.
- ODJFS will experience an administrative cost to promulgate rules regarding foster care training requirements.
- Public children services agencies (PCSAs) may see a change in costs and subsequent reimbursements from ODJFS due to changing hours of training for new and renewal certificates for foster homes.

Detailed Analysis

H.B. 8 makes several changes to the required training for foster care home providers. Most of the changes in the bill remove requirements from the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and allows ODJFS to specify requirements in rules.

Preplacement and continuing training

The bill changes the minimum number of hours of training required to receive and renew a foster care home certificate from hours established in the ORC to those established in rule. The current minimum number of training hours are:

- 36 hours for preplacement training for a family or specialized foster home;
- 40 hours for biennial continuing training for a family foster home;
- 60 hours for biennial continuing training for a specialized foster home; and
- 12 hours for initial certification and 24 hours for renewal certification biennially for caregivers under a temporary custody order.

ODJFS reimburses foster caregivers for the time for their training at a rate of \$10 per training hour. According to ODJFS, the state had 7,607 foster homes in FY 2018 (1,429 were new and 6,178 were existing). Of these, 3,514 were specialized foster homes. Any savings or costs associated with the above changes will depend on rules promulgated. The bill further eliminates requirements regarding the content of the training, instead allowing them to be developed in rule. It is unclear how this change may affect the cost of carrying out the training.

Additionally, the bill specifies that public children services agencies (PCSAs) develop a written needs assessment and continuing training plan for foster caregivers in accordance with ODJFS rules promulgated. The bill also eliminates statutory needs assessment and training requirements for foster caregivers in favor of requirements adopted by ODJFS in rules. Any impact will depend on promulgated rules.

The bill further specifies that the allowance to reimburse the costs of preplacement and continuing training provided to private child placing agencies and private noncustodial agencies will be determined in rule. Also, the bill requires ODJFS to promulgate rules regarding the compensation of recommending agencies for providing training in addition to the minimum required. Finally, the bill states the maximum number of children a foster home may receive, along with any exceptions, will be put in rules. Any impact will depend on rules promulgated.

The bill eliminates the current statutory requirement that institutions and associations that provide foster care services be certified or recertified every two years and instead specifies the certification period will be determined in rules. Any impact will depend on promulgated rules.

The bill also specifies that up to 20% of preplacement training may be provided online. A PCSA that develops an online training program may be able to reduce costs for future trainings.