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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 248  
(1\_134\_0602-11)  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 248's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** In House Health

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Gross

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### Highlights

- The Attorney General's Office and local courts could experience an increase in costs if any relief is sought or civil actions are brought. However, costs to local courts could be partially offset by court costs. The total impact will depend on the number and scope of any actions brought forward.
- Public schools may realize a minimal increase in costs to update notification procedures about vaccination exemptions.

### Detailed Analysis

#### Vaccinations and status disclosures

The bill prohibits certain entities, including a public agency, state agency, political subdivision, school, or daycare, among others, from mandating, requiring, or otherwise requesting an individual to receive a vaccine. While the bill appears to maintain the law requiring immunizations against certain diseases before a child may enroll in school or child care, it addresses exemptions to those requirements. The bill specifies that a school or daycare center that notifies a child's parent or guardian about the required immunizations must also notify the parent or guardian of the available exemptions. Additionally, the bill prohibits certain entities from: (1) mandating, requiring, or otherwise requesting an individual to disclose the individual's vaccine status or participate in a vaccine passport system, registry, or other mechanism designed for the purpose of tracking an individual's vaccine status, (2) disclosing an individual's vaccination status, and (3) making public an individual's vaccine status. The bill also repeals current law requiring college students to disclose hepatitis B and meningococcal meningitis vaccination status to reside in on-campus housing. In terms of direct impacts, it is possible that a public school

may experience a minimal increase in costs to update notification procedures and state colleges or universities may no longer track certain vaccination statuses.

## **Violations and civil causes of action**

The bill authorizes an individual who believes that any of the bill's provisions<sup>1</sup> have been violated to pursue any of the following: (1) relief under Ohio's anti-discrimination statutes, (2) relief through a complaint submitted to the Attorney General, or (3) a civil action. In the case of a civil action brought by an individual plaintiff, if the plaintiff prevails, the bill requires the court to award the plaintiff financial compensation for court costs and attorney's fees as well as any civil penalty the court considers appropriate. The Attorney General's Office and local courts could experience an increase in costs if any relief is sought or civil actions are brought. However, costs to local courts could be partially offset by court costs.

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<sup>1</sup> The bill also prohibits certain acts of discrimination regarding vaccinations or vaccination status, enacts certain business protections for businesses complying with the bill's provisions, and prohibits certain state and local orders.