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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

S.B. 181
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 181's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Primary and Secondary Education

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Gavarone

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Sarah Darnell, LSC Fellow

The bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions. The bill generally prohibits a public or nonpublic school or an interscholastic athletics conference or organization from adopting a regulation that prohibits or creates an obstruction to wearing religious apparel when competing or participating in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities. The bill's prohibition applies to requirements that participants obtain advanced approval, written waivers, or any other permission. An administrator or official of an event may limit wearing religious apparel if a legitimate danger to participants is identified. However, the administrator or official of the event must offer all reasonable accommodations to the participant. The bill authorizes a civil action for damages, injunctive relief, or any other appropriate relief against anyone who violates the bill's prohibition. Nevertheless, school districts, schools, interscholastic athletic conferences, or organizations and their employees are generally provided immunity for money damages in any civil action. This immunity is in addition to any other immunity or defense that may apply.