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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Synopsis of Senate Amendments

(This synopsis addresses amendments adopted by the Senate Workforce & Higher Education Committee and on the Senate Floor.)

H.B. 27 of the 135th General Assembly

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Committee amendments – Financial cost and aid disclosure

The Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee made the following changes to the House-passed version of the bill:

- Applies the bill’s provisions to state universities instead of all state institutions of higher education, but prescribes similar requirements for community colleges.
- Requires community colleges to do both of the following:
 - Beginning one year after the bill’s effective date, provide qualifying students a financial cost and aid disclosure form with the student’s financial aid award letter that is based on the template developed or approved by the Chancellor of Higher Education and includes information on costs of attendance, financial aid, and expected loan payments; and
 - Provide qualifying students, with the student’s acceptance letter, a link to a readily available page on the college’s web site containing information on the income ranges of students who have graduated from the college.
- Permits state universities and community colleges to provide financial cost and aid disclosure forms electronically.
- Permits the Chancellor to approve an existing alternative for the financial cost and aid disclosure form template.
- Requires the Chancellor to develop or approve the form template in consultation with the U.S. Department of Education and financial aid directors from state institutions of higher education to ensure alignment with the U.S. Department’s College Financing Plan and other federal financing tools.

Senate floor amendments

Adoption Grant Program

- Modifies the Ohio Adoption Grant Program application process as follows:

- Requires the adoptive parent to be an Ohio resident at the time the adoption was finalized to be eligible for a grant;
 - Clarifies that court and legal documents required as part of the application must be certified copies;
 - Includes courts among other entities the ODJFS Director may require to provide documents related to an adoption grant application;
 - States that a confidential record submitted to ODJFS as part of a grant application remains confidential after submission.
- Increases from \$15 million to \$34 million GRF appropriations for the Adoption Grant Program in both FY 2024 and FY 2025, and reappropriates for FY 2025 any unexpended, unencumbered balance of the FY 2024 appropriation.

Capital appropriations

- Makes capital appropriations for the FY 2025-2026 biennium to the following agencies:
 - Ohio Exposition Commission, for Expo 2025 projects (\$196 million);
 - Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, for the School Building Assistance Program (\$600 million);
 - Public Works Commission, for local public infrastructure, the State Capital Improvements Revolving Loan Fund, and the Clean Ohio Conservation Program (\$575 million).
- Reappropriates, for the same purposes, all capital appropriations or reappropriations an agency has available at the end of FY 2024 for the FY 2025-FY 2026 biennium.