



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 319
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 319's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Gross and Wiggam

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Jacquelyn Schroeder, Senior Budget Analyst

Highlights

- Specified local and state public entities may experience a minimal increase in costs if any changes to their vaccination or medical policies are necessary as a result of the bill.
- Local courts could experience an increase in costs resulting from violations of the bill's provisions. However, some of these costs might be offset for any court fees collected. The impact will depend on the number of cases brought forward.

Detailed Analysis

Conscientious Right to Refuse Act

The bill prohibits certain entities from taking certain actions against an individual based on the individual's refusal of any biologic, vaccine, pharmaceutical, drug, gene editing technology, RNA-based product, or DNA-based product for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions. These entities include employers, businesses, health plan issuers, health care providers, hospitals, institutions, nursing homes, political subdivisions, private colleges, public officials, residential care facilities, state agencies, and state institutions of higher education. Prohibited actions include: denying or terminating an individual's employment, denying a service or access to commerce, segregating the individual, treating the individual differently than an individual who accepted medical intervention, or penalizing or using financial coercion against the individual. Specified local and state public entities may experience a minimal increase in costs if any changes to their vaccination or medical policies are necessary.

The bill allows an individual who believes that a violation has occurred to petition a court for injunctive relief or to bring a private civil action for money damages. There may be court costs if any cases are brought forward for violating the bill's provisions.