OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

S.B. 315
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for S.B. 315's Bill Analysis

Version: As Reported by Senate Finance

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Schaffer and Craig

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill requires the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to begin issuing new chip-enabled cards beginning on the bill's effective date. Thereafter, ODJFS must replace all existing cards with chip-enabled cards under ODJFS's ordinary time frame for replacing cards.
- The bill makes a total appropriation of $3.00 million in FY 2027 to support the transition to chip-enabled SNAP EBT cards. Of this amount, $2.25 million is from the General Revenue Fund and $750,000 is from federal appropriations.
- The available balances at the end of FY 2027 in the above appropriations are reappropriated in FY 2028.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to begin issuing new chip-enabled cards beginning on the bill's effective date. Thereafter, ODJFS must replace all existing cards with chip-enabled cards under ODJFS's ordinary time frame for replacing cards.

The bill appropriates a total of $3.00 million in FY 2027 to support the transition to chip-enabled SNAP EBT cards. Of this amount, $2.25 million is from GRF line item 600569, SNAP EBT Modernization, and $750,000 is from federal Fund 3840 line item 600610, Food Assistance Programs. The bill permits the ODJFS Director to certify to the Director of the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) an amount up to the unexpended, unencumbered balance to be reappropriated for FY 2028. These funds will be used for replacement cards, ongoing annual maintenance, and mailing costs to distribute the cards to SNAP recipients.

The federal government currently reimburses 50% of a state's SNAP administrative costs, which includes state expenses to transition to chip-enabled SNAP cards.[1] However, Public Law 119-21, also known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," reduces the federal share of SNAP administrative costs to 25% beginning October 1, 2026.

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[1] See Letter to Governors – SNAP EBT Chip Cards, which can be accessed by doing a "letter chip cards" keyword search on USDA's website: fns.usda.gov.