



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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**Bill:** H.B. 264 of the 131st G.A.

**Date:** May 16, 2016

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Rep. Barnes

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Contents:** Requires state institutions of higher education to adopt a policy with regard to dating violence and other subjects, designates the month of April as "Respect Your Date Month," and declares an emergency

### State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill likely increases the administrative responsibilities of state institutions associated with the development and distribution of policies on dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and rape on campus. Any costs associated with these requirements are unlikely to be significant.

### Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

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## Detailed Fiscal Analysis

### Dating and sexual violence policies at state institutions of higher education

The bill requires a state institution of higher education to adopt a policy with regard to dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and rape on campus. Each policy must include the following: (1) a procedure for reporting the specified incidents, (2) an institutional plan for investigating and responding to the specified incidents, and (3) a description of the consequences for committing one of the specified incidents. In addition, each institution must retain a record of all reports of incidents that it receives.

The bill requires a state institution to disseminate the policy to students and other individuals on campus in certain ways. Specifically, state institutions must (1) provide a copy of the policy to each student enrolled in the institution each year, (2) include a copy of the policy in the document packet that students are required to sign upon enrollment or during student orientation (beginning no later than one year after the bill's effective date), and (3) post policy copies in multiple, prominent locations across campus.

The administrative responsibilities of state institutions are likely to increase to review current policies and then develop, update, and distribute the policies as necessary pursuant to the bill. Any costs associated with these duties are unlikely to be significant. It appears most, if not all, state institutions currently have policies in place that address at least some of the topics required under the bill, as the federal Clery Act and Title IX require certain related reporting and policies to be in place for an institution of higher education to receive federal funds. More information on these federal provisions can be found in the LSC Bill Analysis.

### **"Respect Your Date Month"**

The bill designates April as "Respect Your Date Month" to increase public awareness of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and rape on college campuses. This provision has no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions.

### **Changing Campus Culture initiative**

H.B. 64 of the 131st General Assembly appropriated \$2.0 million for the current FY 2016-FY 2017 biennium from GRF appropriation item 235492, Campus Safety and Training, for the Department of Higher Education (DHE) to consult with both public and private nonprofit institutions to develop model best practices for preventing and responding to sexual assault on campus and protecting students and staff who are victims of sexual assault on campus. In late October 2015, DHE announced the creation of the Changing Campus Culture (CCC) initiative to meet the requirements specified in H.B. 64. A report that accompanied the CCC announcement offered the following five recommendations for institutions to adopt: (1) use data to guide action, (2) empower staff, faculty, campus law enforcement, and students to prevent and respond to sexual violence through evidence-based training, (3) communicate a culture of shared respect and responsibility, (4) develop a comprehensive response policy, and (5) adopt a survivor-centered response. The goal of the initiative is to have each of the state's colleges and universities adopt all five recommendations by the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The report as well as other information on the Changing Campus Culture initiative can be found online at <https://www.ohiohighered.org/ccc>.