



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Alexandra Vitale

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 21 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Hambley

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Community school enrollment verification

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill shifts administrative costs of conducting monthly reviews of residency records of community school students from traditional school districts to community schools.
- The bill reduces the administrative duties of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) by eliminating a current law process under which ODE must settle a student school district residency dispute referred to it by the community school.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Current law requires school district boards of education to conduct monthly reviews of enrollment records of students in their districts who are enrolled in community schools. This review process includes verifying to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) the community school at which a student attends and that the student is entitled to attend school at that school district. Additionally, if there is a disagreement regarding a student's resident district, the community school must provide the student's resident district with documentation of the student's residency and make a good faith effort to correctly identify the student's residence. Furthermore, the community school may refer the matter to ODE. ODE is required to settle the dispute within 30 days and then make any necessary community school funding transfer adjustments.

Under the bill, the governing board of a community school must instead conduct the monthly reviews of residency records of students enrolled in the community school. The governing board must submit verification of the resident school district to ODE. The bill will therefore shift administrative costs of verifying community school student residency from traditional school districts to community schools.

The bill also minimally lowers ODE's administrative duties as it eliminates the current law process under which ODE must settle a community school student residency dispute referred to it by the community school. It places the responsibility of verifying residency solely on the community school. According to ODE, the Department does not track the number of residency disputes that its staff has been

asked to resolve, as the residency dispute process is part of its staff's routine duties. Nevertheless, it reported data that provides a snapshot of the number of community school students whose residency is questioned by school districts. So far in FY 2017, school districts have "flagged" 9,702 community school student records for such purpose. According to ODE, 3,672 (37.8%) of those flags resulted in a change of legal district of residence for the student, which ODE attributes to a community school resolving a flag. Of the remainder, 471 (4.9%) remain flagged and have not been resolved. As a point of reference, over 116,000 full-time equivalent students currently attend community schools.

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