



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Anthony Kremer

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 58 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Reported by House Higher Education and Workforce Development

Sponsor: Reps. Brenner and Slaby

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: To require instruction in cursive handwriting

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- School districts that do not already provide handwriting instruction to K-5 students will experience an increase in costs to fulfill the bill's requirement; however, these costs are not expected to be significant.
- The Ohio Department of Education's workload may increase as the bill requires ODE to assist school districts in identifying instructional materials required by the bill and the most appropriate means for integrating the bill's handwriting requirements into their existing curricula.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires school districts to provide handwriting instruction to students in kindergarten through fifth grade to ensure that students develop the ability to print letters and words legibly by third grade and to create readable documents using legible cursive handwriting by the end of fifth grade. Currently, instruction in cursive handwriting varies by district and school. School districts that do not already provide such instruction will experience an increase in costs to fulfill the requirement; however, these costs are not expected to be significant.

The bill requires ODE to assist school districts in identifying the most appropriate means for integrating the bill's handwriting requirements into their existing curricula. ODE also must assist in identifying instructional materials to meet the handwriting requirements. Currently, ODE's model curriculum in English language arts for grades three¹ and four² includes resources for teaching cursive. Nonetheless, these requirements may increase ODE's workload somewhat.

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¹ See page 28, https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/English-Language-Art/Model-Curriculum-for-English-Language-Arts/Grade_3_ELA_Model_Curriculum.pdf.aspx.

² See page 33, https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/English-Language-Art/Model-Curriculum-for-English-Language-Arts/Grade_4_ELA_Model_Curriculum.pdf.aspx.