



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Robert Moore

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 58 of the 132nd G.A.
(L_132_0662-1)

Status: In House Higher Education and Workforce Development

Sponsor: Reps. Brenner and Slaby

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Model curriculum in cursive handwriting instruction

The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt a model curriculum for instruction in cursive handwriting in grades kindergarten through five 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. The bill also requires the State Board to notify all school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools of the content of the curriculum. Schools may choose to use the model curriculum or not. The bill requires the model curriculum to be developed by December 31, 2018. The State Board must decide on whether to adopt it by March 31, 2019, so that it is ready for use in the 2019-2020 school year. If the State Board were to decide to not adopt it by this date, it is unclear when the model curriculum ultimately would be adopted.

Currently, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) model curriculum in English language arts for grades three¹ and four² includes resources for teaching cursive. Nonetheless, the bill's requirements may increase ODE's costs somewhat to develop the model curriculum and notify schools. In FY 2019, \$3.8 million is specifically appropriated to ODE to develop and communicate to school districts academic content standards and curriculum models.

Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes

The substitute bill (L_132_0662-1) makes the bill's fiscal effects on school districts permissive by (1) removing the provision in the As Re-referred to House Higher Education and Workforce Development (previous) bill that requires school districts to offer instruction in printed and cursive handwriting to students in grades kindergarten through five and (2) permitting, but not requiring, public districts and schools to use the model curriculum in cursive handwriting instruction adopted by State Board.

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.

The substitute bill replaces the previous bill's requirement that ODE assist school districts in identifying both the most appropriate means for integrating the handwriting requirements into their existing curricula and associated instructional materials with the requirement to adopt the model curriculum. Thus, the substitute bill may alter ODE's administrative costs to comply with the bill, depending on how the Department would have provided assistance under the previous version.

HB0058H1.docx/lb