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Senate Bill 5 saves \$1.3B, study says

Pay increases, insurance examined

By Jim Siegel

State and local governments would have saved an estimated \$1.3 billion in 2010 on health insurance and automatic pay increases if the limits imposed by Senate Bill 5 were in effect, according to a new analysis by the state Office of Collective Bargaining.

The report comes as Senate Republicans are preparing to pass the biggest overhaul to collective bargaining since the law was enacted in 1983. Changes to the bill and a committee vote could happen as soon as Tuesday, with a possible full Senate vote by Thursday.

The bill seeks to significantly curtail collective bargaining power for more than 350,000 state and local public workers, limiting what they are allowed to discuss at the bargaining table and removing all ability to strike.

Republicans argue that the measure is necessary to curtail rising personnel costs and give officials more flexibility to deal with looming budget cuts. Democrats and unions have called it an attack on middle-class workers who have taken many wage and benefit concessions in recent years.

READ MORE: http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2011/02/26/senate-bill-5-saves-1-3b-study-says.html?sid=101

Big savings

State and local governments would save more than \$1.3 billion from the implementation of legislation to sharply curtail collective bargaining for public employees in Ohio, a study by the state Office of Collective Bargaining shows. The breakdown:

	STATE	LOCAL
Health-insurance cost decrease	\$25.6 million	\$132.2 million
Step-pay elimination	\$76 million	\$392.7 million
Longevity-pay elimination	\$115.3 million	\$596.4 million
TOTAL	\$216.9 million	\$1.12 billion

Source: Office of Collective Bargaining

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