



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Mitchell Smith

H.B. 626

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. K. Smith and Fedor, Antonio, West, Ingram, Sykes, Lang, Ashford

BILL SUMMARY

- Prohibits the Superintendent of Public Instruction from establishing any new academic distress commissions for the 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 school years.
 - Prohibits the consideration of a school district's grades on its state report card prior to the 2021-2022 school year.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Academic distress commission moratorium

The bill prohibits the Superintendent of Public Instruction from establishing any new academic distress commissions for the 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 school years.¹ Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the state Superintendent may resume establishing academic distress commissions. The state Superintendent, however, may not consider a school district's grades on its state report card from any years prior to or during the three-year moratorium, thus effectively establishing a reset for all school districts for which an academic distress commission has not been created.²

¹ R.C. 3302.101(A).

² R.C. 3302.101(B).

The bill does *not* affect any district for which an academic distress commission has already been established.³ Currently, Youngstown and Lorain are the only districts with academic distress commissions.

Background

In 2015, the General Assembly enacted H.B. 70, which repealed the then existing law on academic distress commissions and replaced it with a new law requiring the appointment of a chief executive officer who has substantial powers to manage the operation of a qualifying district. Under that law, the state Superintendent must establish an academic distress commission for any district that receives an overall grade of "F" on the state report card for three consecutive years or equivalencies prescribed for years for which there is no overall grade. The law also provides for progressive consequences for the district, including possible changes to collective bargaining agreements and eventual mayoral appointment of the district board.⁴

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-01-18

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³ R.C. 3302.101(C).

⁴ R.C. 3302.10 and 3302.11 and Section 6 of H.B. 70 of the 131st General Assembly, effective October 15, 2015, none in the bill.

