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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Synopsis of House Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the House Floor.)

### S.B. 89 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

#### House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

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### CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION

#### Career-technical licensure

- Stipulates that, subject to approval of the district superintendent, an individual holding a substitute career-technical teaching license may work outside the individual's career field for up to one semester, rather than 60 days as under the As Passed by the Senate version.

#### Career center as STEM school equivalent

- Permits a career center to receive a STEM school equivalent designation in the same manner as a community school or a chartered nonpublic school, rather than permitting a career-technical planning district to receive the designation as under the As Passed by the Senate version.

#### Technical Correction

- Regarding Department of Education consultation on list of technical assessments, corrects references to "Ohio Association of Comprehensive and Compact Career Technical Schools."

#### Evaluation of teachers

- Specifies that value-added progress dimension data may not be used as a measure of high-quality student data for evaluation of individuals teaching career-technical education courses at any school district or for individuals teaching any other subject at a joint vocational school district.

### K-12 SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Buckeye Opportunity Scholarship Program

- Renames the income-based expansion of the Educational Choice (Ed Choice) Scholarship Program to the Buckeye Opportunity Scholarship Program.

- Extends eligibility for a Buckeye Opportunity scholarship to the siblings of a student who received a scholarship in the prior school year.
- Increases the family income eligibility threshold to receive first-time a Buckeye Opportunity scholarship to 250% of the federal poverty line (FPL), rather than 200% FPL as under current law, and reduces to 300% FPL the threshold above which a student is no longer eligible for a scholarship, rather than 400% FPL as under current law.
- Specifies that families with incomes between 250 to 275% FPL and 275 to 300% FPL must receive pro-rated Buckeye Opportunity scholarship amounts, rather than 200 to 300% FPL and 300 to 400% FPL as under current law.
- Applies the pro-rated amounts to some first-time recipients and students with rising family incomes who are renewing scholarships, rather than solely to students with rising family incomes as under current law.
- Requires the Department of Education to prioritize awarding Buckeye Opportunity scholarships to students who received them in the prior school year and their siblings, and then to award scholarships to other eligible students in order of family income according to FPL, with lower income students given priority over higher income students.
- Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, disqualifies a student from renewing a performance-based Ed Choice scholarship if the student meets the income eligibility requirements of the Buckeye Opportunity scholarship and instead generally makes that student eligible for the maximum amount of the Buckeye Opportunity scholarship until the student completes 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Performance-based Ed Choice scholarships**

- Prohibits the Department from awarding a first-time performance-based Ed Choice scholarship, unless one of two exceptions apply to the student:
  - The student meets certain conditions under continuing law enacted in S.B. 120 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly; or
  - The student's sibling received a performance-based scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year and the school building to which the student would be assigned meets certain conditions.
- Specifies that a student who received a performance-based Ed Choice scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year may continue receiving that scholarship until the student completes 12<sup>th</sup> grade, provided the student meets certain criteria prescribed under continuing law.

## **“Sibling” defined**

- For purposes of the Buckeye Opportunity and Ed Choice Scholarship programs, defines “sibling” as a brother, half-brother, sister, or half-sister, by birth, adoption, or marriage, without regard to residence or custodial status, or a child residing in the same household as a foster child or under a guardianship or custodial order.

## **Scholarships application period**

- Specifies that the application period for the Ed Choice and Buckeye Opportunity programs runs from February 1 until April 1 prior to the school year for which the scholarship is sought.

## **State Educational Assessments Study Committee**

- Establishes the State Educational Assessments Study Committee and requires it to submit to the General Assembly by October 1, 2020, a report that evaluates certain topics regarding testing under state and federal law.

## **Emergency clause**

- Declares that the changes to the Ed Choice program, the Buckeye Opportunity program, and the creation of the State Educational Assessments Study Committee are an emergency.

## **OTHER PROVISIONS**

### **School district territory transfer**

- Repeals a provision of current law that permits the transfer of school district territory located within a township that is split between two or more school districts to an adjacent school district through a petition and vote of electors residing in the territory.
- Specifies the repeal takes effect on September 1, 2020, but permits a transfer ongoing at the time of the repeal to continue in accordance with the provision as it existed prior to the repeal.

### **School treasurers and fiscal officers**

- Includes community school fiscal officers in the current protection from strict liability for school treasurers.

### **School financing studies**

- Makes changes regarding school financing studies by the Department of Education.