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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 644
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Howse

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SUMMARY

- Establishes the Loving State Index Commission and requires the Commission to:
 - Establish the “Loving State Index” system to evaluate and rank municipal corporations regarding critical supports vital to student academic success to identify gaps in opportunities for low-income individual and minority individuals;
 - Evaluate 24 specified factors related to education, health services, public services, safety, housing, and wages;
 - Submit to the General Assembly an annual report containing the Commission’s evaluation, rankings, scoring strategy, data, and analysis.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Loving State Index Commission and Loving State Index

The bill creates the Loving State Index Commission and requires the Commission to establish the Loving State Index, a system to evaluate and rank municipal corporations regarding critical supports that are vital to student academic success. The purpose of the Index is to identify gaps in opportunity for low-income individuals and minority individuals. The Commission must establish criteria to evaluate the following factors as part of the Index:¹

- Early childhood education participation;
- Preschool suspension alternatives;
- Gifted classes offered for kindergarten through 8th grade;

¹ For factors regarding schools, the Commission must use data from the primary or largest school district in a municipal corporation where multiple school districts exist.

- Suspension and expulsion alternatives for kindergarten through 12th grade;
- Advanced high school curriculum;
- Advanced placement curricula;
- Anti-bullying;
- School-to-prison alternatives;
- Well-resourced schools;
- Experienced teachers;
- In-school support staff;
- Economically integrated schools;
- Access to health insurance;
- Prenatal health services;
- Access to mental health services;
- Access to healthy food;
- Clean air environments;
- Access to parks;
- Youth safety;
- Access to public transportation;
- Affordable housing;
- Livable wages;
- Civic participation;
- Banking.

The bill requires political subdivisions² to provide data to the Commission upon request unless the data is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act.³

² For purposes of the bill, this includes counties, townships, municipal corporations, school districts, community schools, STEM schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, city or general health districts, alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services boards, and any other bodies corporate and politic responsible for government activities in a geographic area smaller than the state.

³ R.C. 149.43, not in the bill.

Report

Beginning July 1, 2021, the Commission must publish an annual report containing the Commission's evaluation and ranking of municipal corporations and information regarding the Commission's scoring strategy, data, and analysis. The Commission must submit the report to the members of the General Assembly and must make the report available on the websites of the Departments of Education, Health, Commerce, Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Services, and Transportation, JobsOhio, and the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

Membership

The Commission consists of the following eight members or their designees:

1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction;
2. The Director of Health;
3. The Director of Commerce;
4. The Director of Natural Resources;
5. The Director of Environmental Protection;
6. The Director of Transportation;
7. The Chief Investment Officer of JobsOhio; and
8. The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

The Commission must select one of its members to serve as chairperson. The members serve without compensation but are reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-19-20

H0644-I-133/ts

⁴ R.C. 182.01.