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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 758  
133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Stoltzfus

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### SUMMARY

- Requires school districts to permit family member spectators at interscholastic athletic activities.
- Declares an emergency.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Family spectators at interscholastic athletic activities

The bill requires a school district that holds an interscholastic athletic activity or athletic contest or competition sponsored by or associated with the school district on its property to permit immediate family members of each participating athlete, or any student who takes part or has a role in an athletic activity, to attend that activity in person as a spectator. Students who take part or have a role in an athletic activity include band members and cheerleaders. In addition to athletic competitions, the bill applies to cheerleading, club-sponsored sports activities, marching band activities, and sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated organizations. The board of education of each school district must adopt a policy and establish its own requirements and procedures for safe and effective implementation of the bill's requirement. The bill specifically states that it does not exempt any spectator from paying any fees a school district routinely charges for spectator admission.<sup>1</sup>

For purposes of these requirements, "immediate family members" include an athlete's spouse, child, parent, stepparent, grandparent, brother, or sister.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3313.5318.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3313.5318(A)(3).

## Background on Director of Health's orders about school sports

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Interim Director of Health issued an order on August 19, 2020, that limits the number of individuals that may gather at any outdoor sports venue to the lesser of 1,500 or 15% of the venue's fixed, seated capacity. For indoor facilities, the maximum number is the lesser of 300 spectators or 15% of the venue's fixed seating capacity. Regardless of capacity limitation, physical separation of at least six feet must be maintained throughout each indoor and outdoor venue. Groups must be limited to no more than four spectators or the total members of one household. Furthermore, the order recommends that youth or school sports give priority to family and household members of participants in distributing tickets. Each venue is required to have a written operations plan.

The order provides for a variance under which a specific sport, event, or venue may submit a different plan to the local health board or district under whose jurisdiction the event or venue is located and to the state Director of Health.<sup>3</sup>

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### HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-08-20

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<sup>3</sup> Ohio Department of Health, Director's Order that Provides Mandatory Requirements for Youth, Collegiate, Amateur, Club and Professional Sports, August 19, 2020, available at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/Requirements-Youth-Collegiate-Amateur-Club-Pro-Sports.pdf>.