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Bill Analysis

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Primary Sponsors: Sens. Wilson and McColley

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SUMMARY

Financial literacy curriculum

- Requires students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2021, to complete at least one-half unit of instruction in financial literacy as part of the required high school curriculum (in addition to the study of economics and financial literacy that currently must be integrated into social studies or another class).
- Reduces the required number of elective units for students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2021, to 4.5 (rather than 5 as under current law).
- Exempts students who attend a nonpublic school accredited through the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) from the financial literacy requirement, unless they attend the school using a state scholarship.

Financial literacy educator license validation

- Specifies that, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each public school and chartered nonpublic school must require an individual to have an educator license validation in financial literacy instruction to provide the one-half unit of instruction in the study of financial literacy.
- Exempts an ISACS-accredited nonpublic school from the licensure validation requirement if that school does not have students attending it using a state scholarship.
- Requires the State Board of Education to consult with an advisory committee of at least five classroom teachers prior to adopting any rules regarding the license validation.

Validation cost reimbursement

- Requires each district or school to cover any costs necessary for an individual employed by a district or school to meet the additional requirements for the license validation,

and permits a district or school to seek reimbursement of the license validation costs from the Department of Education.

- Requires the Department to reimburse a district or school that seeks reimbursement of license validation costs an amount for each individual teacher that is the lesser of (1) \$500 or (2) the total cost for meeting the additional requirements for the license validation that are incurred by the teacher.

High School Financial Literacy Fund

- Creates the High School Financial Literacy Fund for these reimbursements.
- Requires the Treasurer to request the Director of Commerce, during the current fiscal biennium, to remit to the High School Financial Literacy Fund up to \$1.5 million of unclaimed funds.
- Requires the Treasurer and the Director to enter into an agreement for repayment, including interest, of the unclaimed funds remitted to the High School Financial Literacy Fund.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Financial literacy in the high school curriculum

Continuing law prescribes 20 units of study in specified subject areas as the minimum high school curriculum for a diploma from a public school or a chartered nonpublic school. (Each unit is a minimum of 120 hours of instruction, except a laboratory course, for which one unit is a minimum of 150 hours.)

The bill generally requires students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2021, to complete at least one-half unit of instruction in the study of financial literacy as part of the 20 units of study. This one-half unit is in addition to the study of economics and financial literacy that currently must be integrated into the two social studies units required under current law or into the content of another class, and it must satisfy the existing academic content standards for financial literacy adopted by the State Board of Education.¹ To maintain the existing minimum curriculum requirement of 20 units, the bill correspondingly reduces the required number of elective units from 5 to 4.5 for students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2021.

However, the bill exempts a student who is attending a nonpublic school accredited through the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) from the new requirement to complete one-half unit of instruction in the study of financial literacy, unless the student is attending that school using a state scholarship.² The bill expressly permits schools to use available public-private partnerships and resources and materials that exist in business and

¹ R.C. 3313.603(C)(9) and R.C. 3301.079(A)(2), not in the bill.

² R.C. 3313.603(C)(8).

industry in developing the financial literacy curriculum.³ Similarly, the bill permits (rather than requires) schools to use available public-private partnerships and resources and materials that exist in business, industry, and through the centers for economics education at institutions of higher education in the state in developing the study of economics and financial literacy that is required under current law.⁴

Financial literacy validation for educator licenses

The bill specifies that, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each public school and chartered nonpublic school generally must require an individual to have an educator license validation in financial literacy instruction to provide the one-half unit of instruction in financial literacy. However, this validation is not required for an individual who provides instruction in economics and financial literacy that currently must be integrated into the two social studies units or into the content of another class.⁵

In addition, the bill exempts an ISACS-accredited nonpublic school from complying with the licensure validation requirement for the new one-half unit of instruction if the school does not have any students attending it using a state scholarship.⁶

Requirements for license validation

To obtain an educator license validation in financial literacy instruction, an individual must hold a valid educator license issued by the State Board of Education or a permanent teaching certificate issued under prior law and meet additional requirements adopted under rules by the State Board.⁷

Prior to adopting any rules regarding the license validation, the State Board must establish and consult with an advisory committee of at least five classroom teachers. That committee must include a representative of each of the following: (1) the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics, (2) the Ohio Council for the Social Studies, (3) the Ohio Business Educators Association, and (4) the Ohio Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences.⁸

³ R.C. 3313.603(C)(9).

⁴ R.C. 3313.603(C)(7).

⁵ R.C. 3314.03(A)(11)(d), 3319.238(A), and 3326.11.

⁶ R.C. 3319.238(E).

⁷ R.C. 3319.238(B).

⁸ R.C. 3319.238(C).

Cost for license validation

Payment by district or school

The bill requires each district or school to cover any costs necessary for an individual employed by a district or school to meet the additional requirements for the license validation.⁹

Reimbursement

A district or school may seek reimbursement of the license validation costs from the Department of Education by reporting to the Department, in the form and manner determined by the Department, the number of teachers employed by the entity who, during the reporting period, met the additional requirements for the license validation.¹⁰ Upon receipt of a request from a district or school, the Department must reimburse the district or school an amount for each individual teacher that is the lesser of (1) \$500 or (2) the total cost for meeting the additional requirements for the license validation that are incurred by the teacher.¹¹

The bill requires the Department, at least two times each fiscal year, to request that the Treasurer of State transfer moneys from the High School Financial Literacy Fund (see below) to the Department for these reimbursements. The Department may use a portion of the transferred moneys for administration of the reimbursement program. Additionally, if the moneys in the fund are insufficient to cover all reimbursement requests, the Department may limit the number of teachers for which a district or school may request reimbursement or may prorate reimbursement amounts as necessary to pay all reimbursement requests.¹²

High School Financial Literacy Fund

The bill creates the High School Financial Literacy Fund, which is in the custody of the Treasurer of State but not a part of the state treasury. It must consist of moneys appropriated to it, any interest and earnings from the fund, and any other donations, grants, gifts, or other moneys received. The Fund may be invested by the Treasurer in the obligations permitted for interim funds under current law.¹³

Remittance of unclaimed funds

The bill requires the Treasurer to request the Director of Commerce, during the current fiscal biennium, to remit to the fund up to \$1.5 million of unclaimed funds. The Director must remit the funds at the time requested by the Treasurer.

The Treasurer and the Director must enter into an agreement specifying the terms of repayment, including interest, to fully reimburse for the amount of unclaimed funds remitted

⁹ R.C. 3319.238(D).

¹⁰ R.C. 3319.238(D) and 3319.239(D).

¹¹ R.C. 3319.239(B).

¹² R.C. 3319.239(C) and (E).

¹³ R.C. 121.086 and R.C. 135.143, latter section not in the bill.

to the fund. If the Treasurer fails to repay the Department of Commerce according to the agreement, the amount of cash owed under the repayment plus the applicable interest must be transferred from the General Revenue Fund.¹⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-14-21

S0001-I-134/ks

¹⁴ Section 3. See also R.C. 169.05, not in the bill.