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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 639  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. T. Young and White

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### SUMMARY

- Beginning with the class of 2027, requires each student to complete self-defense instruction as part of the one-half unit of health instruction.
- Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, requires each public and chartered nonpublic school to require individuals who provide high school health instruction to complete a course in self-defense training.
- Entitles the bill the “Student Protection Act.”

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Self-defense training in health curriculum

The bill requires each student who enters 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2023 (the Class of 2027 and on), to complete self-defense instruction to qualify for a high school diploma. Specifically, public and chartered nonpublic school students must complete that instruction as part of the one-half unit of health instruction required under continuing law as part of the state’s minimum high school curriculum. The self-defense instruction must include a demonstration provided by a school resource officer or another certified self-defense instructor.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the bill specifies that each public and chartered nonpublic school must require an individual providing health instruction in high school to complete a course in self-defense training. Each school must determine the courses which meet the bill’s training requirements and how often individuals providing health

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3313.603(C)(2).

instruction must complete a course. Any coursework completed under the provision must count toward professional development requirements for renewal of an educator license.<sup>2</sup>

## Background

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.<sup>3</sup>

As noted above, as part of that 20 units of study, students must complete one-half of health instruction. That health instruction must include instruction in nutrition and the benefits of nutritious foods and physical activity for overall health.<sup>4</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-02-22

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3319.2310. The provision applies to community schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools through cross references in R.C. 3314.03(A)(11)(d), 3326.11, and 3328.24.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3313.603.

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 3313.603(C)(2).