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Substitute Bill Comparative Synopsis

Sub. S.B. 49

135th General Assembly

House Primary and Secondary Education

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This table summarizes how the latest substitute version of the bill differs from the immediately preceding version. It addresses only the topics on which the two versions differ substantively. It does not list topics on which the two bills are substantively the same.

Previous Version (As Passed by the Senate)	Latest Version (I_135_1266-2)
Policy to accommodate students' sincerely held religious beliefs	
Requires each school district, community school, STEM school, and college-preparatory boarding school to adopt a policy that reasonably accommodates the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of students regarding exams, other academic requirements and absences for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system (<i>R.C. 3320.04; conforming changes in R.C. 3314.03(A)(11)(d), 3326.11, and 3328.24</i>).	No provision.
Requires a district or school's policy to permit a student to be absent for up to three religious expression days each school year to take	No provision.

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<p>holidays for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system or to participate in activities organized by a religious or spiritual organization <i>(R.C. 3320.04(A))</i>.</p>	
<p>Prohibits a district or school from imposing an academic penalty as a result of a student's absence and requires alternative accommodations be provided regarding exams or other academic requirements missed due to an absence if, with 14 days of the start of the school year or the student's enrollment, the student's parent provides a written notice to the school principal <i>(R.C. 3320.04(A) and (B))</i>.</p>	No provision.
<p>Permits a student who is absent for a religious expression day to participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular activities on that day <i>(R.C. 3320.04(A))</i>.</p>	No provision.
<p>Requires a district or school to post in a prominent location on its website a copy of its policy and a nonexhaustive list of major religious holidays, festivals, and religious observations for which an excused absence cannot be unreasonably withheld or denied <i>(R.C. 3320.04(C))</i>.</p>	No provision.
<p>Requires a district or school annually to convey its policy to parents and guardians and to include a grievance procedure in the policy <i>(R.C. 33320.04(D) and (E))</i>.</p>	No provision.
<p>Prohibits using any excused absences under a policy in a consideration for determining absence hours for the purposes of parental notification for a student who is excessively absent <i>(R.C. 3320.04(F))</i>.</p>	No provision.
Determinations of excessively absent and habitual truancy	
No provision.	Prohibits a school district, community school, or STEM school from counting the first cumulative 60 hours a student is absent from school

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No provision.	<p>with a nonmedical legitimate excuse in a school year from determinations regarding whether the district or school must notify the student’s parent that the student is excessively absent <i>(R.C. 3321.192(B))</i>.</p> <p>Requires a district or school to count the 61st hour, and subsequent hours, a student is absent with a nonmedical legitimate excuse as an hour for the purposes of whether a student is excessively absent <i>(R.C. 3321.192(B))</i>.</p>
No provision.	<p>Requires a district or school to permit a student who is absent from school for a religious expression day to participate in interscholastic athletics on that day, but otherwise permits a district or school to determine whether to permit a student who is absent with a legitimate excuse to participate in athletics <i>(R.C. 3321.192(C))</i>.</p>
No provision.	<p>Specifies that the first cumulative 60 hours a student is absent with a legitimate excuse must be considered excused absences and not factored into habitual truancy determinations <i>(R.C. 2151.011(B)(22))</i>.</p>
No provision.	<p>Defines “legitimate excuse” for the purposes of these provisions as an excuse for a student’s absence from school that is approved by the student’s district or school, and must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Illness of the student; 2. Illness in the family necessitating the presence of the student; 3. Quarantine in the home; 4. Death of a relative; 5. Medical, behavioral, or dental appointment; 6. Observance of religious expression days;

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. College visitation; 8. Pre-enlistment reporting to military enlistment processing station; 9. Placement in foster care, change in foster care placement, or other court proceeding related to the student's foster care status; 10. Student homelessness; 11. Deployment activities of a parent, guardian, or custodian; 12. Participation in scheduled 4-H and FFA activities or programs; 13. Farm work of the parent, legal guardian, or custodian during a time of the year in which the amount of farm work to be performed is exceptional; 14. Inability of the parent, legal guardian, or custodian to employ help in the family business, as determined by the district superintendent or equivalent official; and 15. Emergencies or any other set of circumstances which a district superintendent, or equivalent official determines constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence <i>(R.C. 3321.192(A))</i>.
State report card	
No provision.	Prohibits the Department of Education and Workforce, when it calculates the state report card's chronic absenteeism indicator for a school district or school building, from including absences for which a student has a legitimate excuse <i>(R.C. 3302.02(A)(3))</i> .

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No provision.	Changes the four-year adjusted cohort graduate rate from a performance measure that is factored into the performance rating of the state report card's Graduation component to report-only data that is not factored into that rating (<i>R.C. 3302.03(D)(1)(d), (D)(2)(m), and (D)(3)(d)</i>).
No provision.	Establishes, as a performance measure that is factored into the performance rating of the state report card's Graduation component, a four-year graduation measure that is calculated in the same manner as the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, except that DEW must exclude from it students with individualized education programs (IEPs) who have satisfied the conditions for a high school diploma, but opted not to receive a diploma and are still receiving education services (<i>R.C. 3302.03(D)(1)(d) and (D)(3)(d)</i>).