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Synopsis of Senate Amendments

(This synopsis addresses amendments adopted by the Senate Education Committee and on the Senate Floor.)

H.B. 250 of the 135th General Assembly

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Committee amendments

Cellular telephone policy

- Requires each school district, community school, STEM school, and college-preparatory boarding school to adopt a policy governing the use of cellular telephones by students during school hours.
- Requires policies governing the use of cellular telephones to do all of the following:
 - Emphasize that student cellular telephone use be as limited as possible during school hours;
 - Reduce cellular telephone-related distractions in classroom settings; and
 - If determined appropriate by a district board or school governing authority, or if included in a student's individualized education program (IEP) or section 504 plan, permit students to use cellular telephones or other electronic communications devices for student learning or to monitor or address a health concern.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to adopt a model policy governing the use of cellular telephones by students during school hours that public schools may utilize.

Educator licenses

- Permits a licensed educator with a grade band specification under former law to renew the license in accordance with former law or the law in effect on the license's renewal date.
- Specifies that a licensed teacher employed by a district or school to teach two grade levels outside of the designated grade band on the teacher's license is a "properly certified or licensed teacher."

Pupil Transportation Pilot Programs

- Divides the Pupil Transportation Pilot Program into two distinct programs with different requirements.
- Requires an educational service center (ESC) in the Franklin County program to identify students who are struggling with transportation issues as determined by their resident districts, instead of identifying districts, to participate in the program.
- Qualifies students transported by an ESC in the Montgomery County program who are struggling with transportation issues who do not attend their resident school or are students with disabilities.
- Requires the ESCs of both programs to report students transported under the program to the Department of Education and Workforce.
- Permits participating ESCs to use other approved vehicles for student transportation, rather than only school busses, and permits ESCs to use other authorized individuals in other approved vehicles, rather than only bus drivers.

High school financial literacy fund

- Transfers administrative authority over the High School Financial Literacy Fund from the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Director of Education and Workforce.

Corrective change

- Changes an incorrect reference from “the State Board of Education” to “the Director of Education and Workforce” in the school psychologist law.

Standards and model curriculum for financial literacy

- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce, instead of the State Board, to incorporate academic concepts of free market capitalism into the standards and model curriculum for high school financial literacy.

Programs for parents of blind or visually impaired children

- Requires Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services to consult with the Department of Children and Youth in carrying out its educational program for parents of blind or visually impaired children.

Floor amendment – adoption grant appropriations

- Increases GRF ALI 600562, Adoption Grant Program, by \$19 million in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025, from \$15 million to \$34 million.
- Allows the Director of Job and Family Services to certify to the OBM Director the available balance of this line item at the end of FY 2024, and reappropriates the certified amount to the same line item for the same purpose in FY 2025.