



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 602*
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

[Click here for H.B. 602's Fiscal Note](#)

Version: As Reported by House Public Health Policy

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Fowler Arthur

Meredith Bray, Attorney

Alyssa Bethel, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Defines home education learning pod.
- Exempts home education learning pods from child care regulations.
- Prohibits a county or township from restricting or limiting the location of home education learning pods within any district/zone in the county or township.
- Prohibits a county or township from imposing additional or more stringent zoning regulations on a building or residence based solely on its association with or use by a home education learning pod.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Home education learning pods

The bill defines a home education learning pod as a voluntary association of parents who direct their children's education through home education. Parents participating in a pod choose to group their children together in a home or other location at various times. This may include hours when home education is not provided. The pod includes only the parents' children who are receiving home education, except that it also may include siblings or other children under the care of the parents in the pod, regardless of age. The pod is required to have at least one parent of any of the children participating in the pod on the premises while the pod is meeting.¹ Under current law, such arrangements could be considered child care and may be subject to licensure

This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Public Health Policy Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 5104.01(V).

and regulation as a child care center or family child care home. The bill exempts home education learning pods from those requirements.²

Zoning

The bill prohibits a county or township from restricting or limiting the location of home education learning pods within any district/zone in the county or township, and from imposing additional or more stringent zoning regulations on a building or residence based solely on its association with or use by a home education learning pod. Counties and townships would still have the authority to require a building or residence used by a pod to comply with zoning requirements that would otherwise apply to the building or residence if it was not associated with or used by a pod.³

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-20-24
Reported, H. Public Health Policy	---

ANHB0602RH-135/sb

² R.C. 5104.02.

³ R.C. 303.215 and 519.215.