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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.)

H.B. 9 of the 133rd General Assembly

Senate Higher Education

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Degree completion at state institutions of higher education

Requires a state university to inform a student about the university's transfer appeals process and the Department of Higher Education's student complaint portal if the university refuses to accept or grant credit for certain general education coursework completed by the student at another state institution of higher education, rather than requiring the university to inform the Chancellor of Higher Education and provide the Department's contact information to the student as under the As Passed by the House version.

Requires the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network Oversight Board to conduct a study and submit a report to the General Assembly about college credit transfer rules, rather than the Chancellor's Transfer Practices Advisory Committee as under the As Passed by the House version.

Educational Choice (Ed Choice) scholarship eligibility

- Specifies that a student who would be assigned to a district school building that meets certain criteria under continuing law is eligible for a first-time Ed Choice scholarship if the student completed eighth grade while homeschooled or enrolled in a public or private school in the prior school year, rather than completing any of grades 8 through 11 as under current law.
- For the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, or 2022-2023 school year, disqualifies a student for a first-time Educational Choice scholarship if the student's resident school district is not subject to an academic distress commission and the school to which the student would otherwise be assigned either:
 1. Receives an overall grade of "A," "B," or "C" on the most recent state report card; or
 2. Receives an overall grade of "D" on the most recent state report card and was not ranked in two of the three most recent years in the lowest 20% of school buildings according to performance index ranking.

- Increases the base family income eligibility criteria of the income-based Educational Choice Expansion program to 300% of the federal poverty line (FPL), rather than 200% of FPL as under current law.
- Specifies that a student receiving a scholarship whose family income subsequently rises above the base family income must receive a 75% pro-rated scholarship amount if that income is between 300% and 350%; and a 50% pro-rated amount if that income is between 350% and 400% (rather than as under current law under which a student receives a 75% pro-rated amount for an income between 200% and 300% and a 50% pro-rated amount for an income between 300% and 400%).
- Declares an emergency for the Ed Choice eligibility provisions so they go into immediate effect when the bill becomes law.

Reimbursements for Ed Choice payments

- Earmarks \$20 million to reimburse school districts for deductions of state foundation aid for FY 2021 associated with students who receive a first-time Ed Choice Scholarship because they would be assigned to a district school building that meets certain criteria under continuing law and the student completed eighth grade while homeschooled or enrolled in private school in the prior school year.

Academic distress commissions

- Dissolves any academic distress commission established for a school district on or before the bill's effective date if it receives an overall "D" or higher on the 2018-2019 state report card.