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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 479
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Patterson and Perales

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UPDATED VERSION*

SUMMARY

- Requires major and minor league baseball stadiums to install protective netting from the dugouts to the foul poles not later than April 1, 2021.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Protective netting in baseball stadiums

Beginning April 1, 2021, the bill requires a baseball stadium that is used for major or minor league baseball games to have protective netting from the ends of the dugouts to the foul poles. Typically, netting in major and minor league baseball fields extends to the end of the dugouts, but the extent of additional netting is determined by each ballpark.¹ Under the bill, the additional netting must be in place during all major and minor league games, but may otherwise be removed or lowered. The additional netting must extend upward to a point equal to the height of the top row of seats of the section being protected; the netting may vary in height given the seating structure. Finally, the size of the mesh must meet Major League Baseball (MLB) standards, though it appears the MLB has no such standards.

* Updates the discussion on MLB standards.

¹ See <https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/mlb/2019/05/30/mlb-safety-nets-stadium/1284310001/> and <https://www.sportsbusinessdaily.com/Journal/Issues/2019/07/29/Facilities/Netting.aspx>.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-23-20
