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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 588
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Sobecki and Ingram

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SUMMARY

- Declares the General Assembly's intent to establish new State Board of Education districts.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Intent to establish new State Board of Education districts

The bill declares that it is the intent of the General Assembly to establish new State Board of Education districts in accordance with continuing law.¹

Under continuing law, the State Board of Education consists of 19 members, with 11 elected members, and eight members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The 11 elected members are elected from 11 State Board of Education districts. Each district consists of three contiguous Ohio Senate districts.

The Revised Code specifies that when new state legislative districts are adopted, the General Assembly may draw new State Board of Education districts based on the updated Senate districts. If the General Assembly fails to do so by the end of the year in which the redistricting occurred, the Governor must designate the districts by January 31 of the following year. The districts must be as compact as practicable, and must include, when practicable, some districts that primarily consist of territory in rural areas and some districts that primarily consist of territory in urban areas.²

¹ Section 1.

² R.C. 3301.01, not in the bill.

Current status of redistricting

The Governor designated the current State Board of Education districts on January 31, 2022, based on a Senate district map that was adopted that month.³ The January plan was the second General Assembly district plan adopted by the Ohio Redistricting Commission, after the Ohio Supreme Court ruled its September 2021 plan unconstitutional. However, after the Governor designated the current State Board of Education districts, the January General Assembly district plan also was ruled unconstitutional.

In the course of the litigation, which is still ongoing, the Ohio Redistricting Commission adopted further new district plans in February, March, and May of 2022. The March plan was used for purposes of the 2022 General Assembly elections, but it is not yet clear what plan will be in place for 2024 and beyond. As a result, the current State Board of Education districts are not based on the Senate districts that will be in place for the 135th General Assembly, nor are they based on the most recently adopted Senate district map.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-02-22

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³ Ohio Secretary of State, [Directive 2022-42 \(PDF\)](#) and [State Board of Education Legal Descriptions January 31, 2022 \(PDF\)](#), available at ohiosecretaryofstate.gov under “Directives, Advisories, Memos & Tie Votes.”

⁴ *League of Women Voters of Ohio v. Ohio Redistricting Commission*, Slip Opinion No. 2022-Ohio-1235 and Slip Opinion No. 2022-Ohio-1727 (2022) and *Gonidakis v. LaRose*, Case No. 2:22-CV-0773 (S.D. Ohio 2022).