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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 563
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Brennan

Rachel Larsen, Research Analyst

SUMMARY

Annual online staffing survey

- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to develop and administer an annual online staffing survey to collect data from each city, local, and exempted village school district.
- Requires the Department to produce an annual report based on the survey's findings and both post the report on its website and submit the report to the General Assembly and the Department of Higher Education.

Student teacher wages and other financial assistance

- Allows a public school district to pay a student teacher an hourly wage that is no less than the state minimum wage and offer a student teacher healthcare benefits on the same terms and conditions as those offered to teachers in the district.
- Permits the Department to provide a cost-of-living stipend and test fee waivers or reimbursements to a student teacher.
- Authorizes a state institution of higher education to waive tuition for an individual enrolled in a teacher preparation program for the academic period during which the individual is required to work as a student teacher.

List of in-demand jobs

- Requires the Department of Job and Family Services to add teachers to the list of in-demand jobs in Ohio.

Bill designation

- Entitles the bill the "Future Educators Support Act."

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Annual online staffing survey

Under the bill, the Department of Education and Workforce must develop and administer an online annual staffing survey to collect data from each city, local, and exempted village school district. Surveys must be completed annually by the district superintendent or superintendent's designee using staffing numbers as of the first day of the school year. Each annual survey shall include the following data:¹

- The number of each of the following positions that are vacant or filled by an individual who is not fully licensed for the position:
 - Teachers, categorized by licensure and endorsement area, including:
 - School psychologists;
 - Speech-language pathologists;
 - Occupational therapists;
 - School counselors;
 - School social workers;
 - School nurses;
 - Other positions, as determined by the Department.
- The number of teaching positions filled by long-term substitutes, categorized by licensure and endorsement area;
- The number of teaching positions filled by retired teachers who have renewed an expired license or returned to the classroom under a permanent teaching certificate, categorized by licensure and endorsement area;
- The number of positions filled by teachers who hold an alternative license that allows the individual to be employed as a teacher while progressing toward obtaining full licensure, categorized by licensure and endorsement area;
- The number of new teachers, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, school counselors, school social workers, school nurses, or individuals in other positions as determined by the Department; and
- Any other relevant data, as determined by the Department.

From the results of the survey, the Department must submit an annual report to the General Assembly and the Department of Higher Education for consideration in the oversight

¹ R.C. 3301.24(B).

and development of educator preparation programs.² The Department must also publish the annual report and a summary of each district's staffing survey on its website.³

Student teacher wages and other financial assistance

Under the bill, a public school district may pay a student teacher in the district an hourly wage that is no less than the state minimum wage (currently, \$10.45 per hour). Additionally, the district may offer a student teacher healthcare benefits on the same terms and conditions as those offered to the district's teachers.

For purposes of the provision, "public school district" means a city, local, exempted village, or joint vocational school district, an educational service center, a community (charter) school, a STEM school, or a college-preparatory boarding school.⁴

The bill also allows the Department of Education and Workforce to provide either of the following to an individual enrolled in a teacher preparation program while the individual is working as a student teacher:

- A cost-of-living stipend;
- Test fee waivers or reimbursements based on financial need.

If the Department chooses to offer a cost-of-living stipend, test fee waivers, or both, it must establish procedures for their implementation.

The bill specifies that a student teacher may simultaneously receive both a wage paid by the district and a cost-of-living stipend paid by the Department.⁵

Under the bill, a state institution of higher education also may waive all or part of an individual's tuition for any academic period during which the individual is enrolled in a teacher preparation program and working as a student teacher in a school building.

The Chancellor of Higher Education must establish procedures for a state institution of higher education to follow in the event the institution chooses to implement the tuition waiver.⁶

In-demand jobs list

The bill requires the Department of Job and Family Services to add teachers to the list of in-demand jobs established under continuing law. The bill specifies that teachers must be

² R.C. 3301.24(C).

³ R.C. 3301.24(D).

⁴ R.C. 3319.70; *see also* [State of Ohio 2024 Minimum Wage](#), which may be accessed by conducting a keyword "minimum wage poster" search on the Department of Commerce's website: <https://com.ohio.gov/>.

⁵ R.C. 3301.82.

⁶ R.C. 3345.83.

added to the list regardless of whether the methodology used to develop the list would include teachers.⁷

Continuing law requires the Governor’s Executive Workforce Board, in connection with the Department of Job and Family Services, the Department of Education and Workforce, and higher education institutions, to develop a methodology for identifying in-demand jobs. The Departments and higher education institutions, in consultation with the Board, must use that methodology to create a list of in-demand jobs in Ohio and each region of the state. Both Departments must post that list on their websites.⁸

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-15-24

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⁷ R.C. 6301.113. See the [In-Demand Jobs List](#), which is available on a website maintained by the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation: topjobs.ohio.gov.

⁸ R.C. 6301.11, not in the bill.