



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

William Schwartz

H.B. 496

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Boccieri, Lepore-Hagan, Arndt, Terhar, Leland, Phillips, Sweeney, Rogers, Celebrezze, Strahorn, Patterson, G. Johnson, Ashford, Perales, Cera, M. O'Brien, Sheehy

BILL SUMMARY

- Prohibits school districts, community schools, STEM schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, and chartered nonpublic schools from prohibiting a student from participating in an extracurricular activity or any practice, competition, or other event related to that activity because of the student's absence due to uniformed military service.
- Prohibits public and private institutions of higher education from prohibiting a student from participating in an extracurricular activity or any practice, competition, or other event related to that activity because of the student's absence due to uniformed military service, provided there is no conflict with the rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.
- Entitles the bill the "Student to Soldiers Support Act (S3A)."

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Participation in extracurricular activities by uniformed service members

The bill prohibits school districts, community schools, STEM schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, and chartered nonpublic schools from prohibiting a student from participating in an extracurricular activity or any practice, competition, or other event related to that activity because of the student's absence due to "uniformed" military service.¹

¹ R.C. 3313.5315, 3314.03(A)(11)(d), 3326.11, and 3328.24.

Similarly, it also prohibits public and private institutions of higher education (both nonprofit and for-profit) from prohibiting a student from participating in an extracurricular activity or any practice, competition, or other event related to that activity because of the student's absence due to uniformed military service, provided that permitting such participation does not conflict with the rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.²

For purposes of the bill, qualifying "uniformed services" include the Armed Forces of the United States, the Ohio Organized Militia (including active and nonactive training), or the full-time National Guard. It also includes the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service or others designed by the President.³

Background

Current law requires school district boards of education to adopt rules regarding student participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities. The policies generally provide for participation in those activities to be based on student academic performance.⁴ With some exceptions, the law also provides for students enrolled in chartered nonpublic schools and community schools and homeschooled students to participate in extracurricular activities at the students' resident school districts.⁵

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-24-16

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² R.C. 3345.425.

³ R.C. 3313.5315(A)(3) and 3345.425(A)(4).

⁴ R.C. 3313.535, not in the bill.

⁵ R.C. 3313.5311, 3313.5312, and 3313.537, none in the bill.

