



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

William Schwartz

S.B. 8

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Gardner and Terhar, Beagle, Eklund, Hite, Brown, Manning, Oelslager, Uecker

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the School Facilities Commission, by December 31, 2017, to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill requires the School Facilities Commission, by December 31, 2017, to establish a program under which school districts that have not yet received assistance under the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP)¹ may apply for state funds to use for technology and physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure or school safety and security. If a district participates in the program established by the bill, it is no longer eligible for participation in CFAP.²

The Commission must adopt guidelines and procedures for the administration of the program, including:

--A requirement that, in order to participate in the program, the district's board of education must approve participation by an affirmative vote of not less than four-fifths of the board's full membership;

--The application process for districts and the process by which the Commission annually selects districts for assistance;

¹ CFAP is authorized under R.C. 3318.01 to 3318.20 (R.C. 3318.39(C)).

² R.C. 3318.39(A) and (B).

--The method for determining the amount of funding awards under the program, including any requirements relating to the state's portion and the district's portion of the basic project cost, if applicable.³

Background

The Commission administers several programs that provide state assistance to school districts and community schools in constructing classroom facilities. The main program, the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program, is designed to provide each city, exempted village, and local school district with partial funding to address all of the district's classroom facilities needs. It is a graduated, cost-sharing program where a district's portion of the total cost of the project and priority for funding are based on the district's relative wealth. Districts are ranked by wealth into percentiles. The poorest districts are served first and receive a greater amount of state assistance than wealthier districts will receive when it is their turn to be served based on their respective wealth percentile. Other smaller programs address the particular needs of certain types of districts and schools but most assistance continues to be based on relative wealth.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	01-31-17

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³ R.C. 3318.39(A)(1) to (3).

