



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

William Schwartz

H.B. 246

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Boccieri and Rezabek, Lepore-Hagan, Stein, O'Brien, Riedel, Miller, West, Strahorn, Ashford, Sheehy, Brenner

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) to establish guidelines for assisting eligible county boards of developmental disabilities (county DD boards) in the acquisition and renovation of classroom facilities.
 - Authorizes the OFCC, subject to Controlling Board approval, to provide funding to eligible county DD boards to assist in the acquisition and renovation of classroom facilities for (1) the board's building or (2) any classroom in a school district's building that is used by the board.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Funding to acquire and renovate county DD board classroom facilities

The bill requires the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) (see **COMMENT**) to establish guidelines for assisting eligible county boards of developmental disabilities (county board) in the acquisition and renovation of classroom facilities. An eligible county DD board is a board with existing classroom facilities that have been paid for by the county that is served by the board.¹

An eligible county DD board may receive funding in the acquisition of classroom facilities for the board's building or in a city, local, or exempted village school district's building that is used by the board. In order to receive funding, an eligible county DD board must submit to the OFCC a proposal indicating (1) the total amount of funding requested from the OFCC and (2) the amount of other funding pledged for the

¹ R.C. 3318.80(A) and (B).

acquisition and renovation of the classroom facilities. The amount of other pledged funding cannot be less than the total amount of funding requested from the OFCC.

If the OFCC determines a proposal meets its guidelines and the Controlling Board approves the request, the OFCC must enter into an agreement with the county DD board for the acquisition and renovation of the classroom facilities. The agreement must include a stipulation of the ownership of the classroom facilities.²

The bill specifies that if a county DD board receives funding for a school district's classrooms used by the board, the district may not receive additional assistance from the OFCC for those particular facilities.³

Background

OFCC administers several programs that provide state assistance to school districts and other public schools in constructing classroom facilities that used to be administered by the School Facilities Commission (see **COMMENT**). 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. Joint vocational school districts (JVSDs) are served by a similar program, the Vocational School Facilities Assistance Program.

In each case, the scope of a district's project is negotiated between the Commission and the district in accordance with the district's needs and the design specifications adopted by the Commission. The Commission has adopted a design manual for city, exempted village, and local school districts and a separate one for JVSDs.

Other smaller programs serve special needs of certain types of districts, STEM schools, and community schools.

² R.C. 3318.80(C).

³ R.C. 3318.80(D).



COMMENT

The bill was introduced prior to the enactment of H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly, which abolished the School Facilities Commission and transferred its responsibilities to the OFCC, effective September 29, 2017. The bill refers to the School Facilities Commission and, thus, may need to be amended to reflect this change. Under former law, the School Facilities Commission was an independent agency within the OFCC.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-24-17

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