



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Alexandra Vitale

---

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

**Bill:** S.B. 241 of the 132nd G.A.

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Sens. Terhar and Thomas

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Subject:** Establishment of accredited nonpublic schools

---

The bill may decrease the administrative workload of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) if it leads to fewer nonpublic schools seeking and obtaining a state charter. The bill creates a new category of nonpublic school, called an "accredited nonpublic school," that is exempt from the requirement to attain a state charter and certain other state requirements.<sup>1</sup> Instead, accredited nonpublic schools attain their charters to operate by meeting the standards of and being accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). Nevertheless, the bill permits ODE to exercise some oversight over the ISACS accreditation process of nonpublic schools, and ODE may revoke a school's designation if it fails to cooperate with ODE in its oversight. ODE's website currently lists 37 ISACS-accredited chartered nonpublic schools in Ohio.<sup>2</sup> Overall, there are slightly less than 700 Ohio chartered nonpublic schools currently in operation.

The bill also creates a six-member joint committee of the General Assembly to study the effects of the creation of accredited nonpublic schools and submit a report to the General Assembly no later than two years after the bill's effective date. There may be some minimal administrative costs associated with the activities of the committee.

SB0241IN.docx/zg

---

<sup>1</sup> The bill requires accredited nonpublic schools to continue to comply with most provisions of law that apply to chartered nonpublic schools. For example, the bill continues to require accredited nonpublic schools to participate in the Ed Choice and Cleveland Scholarship programs. Accredited nonpublic schools also continue to qualify for the nonpublic administrative cost reimbursement, Auxiliary Services funding, and transportation services. For a full description of the provisions of the bill, please see the LSC Bill Analysis.

<sup>2</sup> <http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Quality-School-Choice/Private-Schools/Private-Schools/ISACS-Schools.pdf.aspx>, last accessed March 5, 2018.