



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

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Sub. H.B. 438*

132nd General Assembly
(As Reported by S. Education)

Reps. Hambley and Kick, Seitz, Brenner, Stein, Anielski, Antonio, Greenspan, Householder, Landis, Rogers, R. Smith, Strahorn, West, Wiggam

BILL SUMMARY

Educational service centers

- Permits a "local" school district to sever its territory from its current educational service center (ESC) and annex its territory to an adjacent ESC, so long as that district severed and annexed its territory under a substantially similar provision of law that was repealed in 2011.
- Permits the governing board of any ESC (rather than only the governing board of a joint ESC) to add appointed members to the board.
- Permits ESCs to establish local professional development committees to serve educators, including pupil services personnel, who are (1) licensed or certificated in Ohio and (2) are not currently employed as an educator or by an entity that operates a local professional development committee.

Community school classroom facilities grants

- Modifies the provisions for community school classroom facilities grants by requiring at least three rounds of funding and specifically permitting participants to receive additional funding.

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Education Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Educational service centers

Local district severance from one ESC and annexation to another

The bill permits a "local" school district to sever its territory from its current educational service center (ESC) and annex its territory to an adjacent ESC, so long as that district severed and annexed its territory under a substantially similar provision of law that was repealed on June 30, 2011, by H.B. 153 of the 129th General Assembly.¹

The bill specifies that a severance and annexation action is subject to both approval of the State Board of Education and referendum by petition of the district's voters. That action cannot be effective sooner than one year after July 1 following the later of (1) the date the State Board approves the action or (2) the date voters approves the action at a referendum election, if one is held. If a district severs from its ESC and annexes to another, it cannot do so again for at least four years after the effective date of the prior action.²

Appointed members to ESC governing boards

The bill permits the elected members of any ESC governing board to add appointed members to the board. Currently, this provision applies only to the governing boards of joint ESCs (those formed by combining up to five adjacent ESCs into one³). Law unchanged by the bill specifies that the number of appointed members may be up to one less than the number of elected members, except that the total number of elected and appointed members must be an odd number.

The bill requires that the qualifications for the appointed members, which must be specified by the elected members under current law, include the experience, knowledge, and skills that advance the mission and vision of the ESC. Additionally, if the appointed members are representative of the "client" school districts of the ESC, the bill specifies that they must represent client districts that are not otherwise represented on the board.⁴

¹ R.C. 3311.059(A).

² R.C. 3311.059(B) through (E).

³ R.C. 3311.053, not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 3311.056.



Local professional development committees

The bill permits ESCs to establish local professional development committees to serve educators, including pupil services personnel, who are (1) licensed or certificated in Ohio and (2) are not either currently employed at all as an educator or by any entity that operates a local professional development committee (an ESC, a county board of developmental disabilities, a college or university department of education, a Head Start Program, or the Ohio Education Computer Network). These committees may agree to review these educators' coursework, continuing education units, or other equivalent activities related to classroom teaching or their proposed areas of licensure. In doing so, these committees must determine whether the proposed coursework, continuing education units, or other equivalent activities meet the State Board of Education's requirements.⁵

Background

An ESC is a public regional service provider that can contract with any school district, community school, STEM school, or private school. A school district with a student count of 16,000 or less must have an agreement with an ESC, while larger districts are permitted, but not required, to do so.⁶ Each ESC has its own superintendent and a governing board made up of representatives of the "local" school districts located in the county or counties within its service territory. Generally, members of an ESC's governing board are elected by the voters of those "local" school districts. An ESC governing board also may have a minority of appointed members. These appointed members may represent "city" and "exempted village" school districts receiving services from the ESC.⁷

Community school classroom facilities grants

The bill requires the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) to conduct at least three rounds of funding community school classroom facilities grants, including the rounds of funding conducted prior to the bill's effective date. In 2017, H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly appropriated \$7,989,174 for the grants, which is a continuation of a provision commenced in 2015 under H.B. 64 of the 131st General Assembly. The bill specifies that a community school that has already received funds under the provision

⁵ R.C. 3319.22(G)(2).

⁶ R.C. 3313.843, not in the bill.

⁷ R.C. 3311.05 and 3311.053 to 3311.57, none except R.C. 3311.56 in the bill.



may participate in additional rounds of funding, as long as the school continues to satisfy the eligibility criteria.⁸

Under continuing law, the grants may be used by eligible community schools for the purchase, construction, reconstruction, renovation, remodeling, or addition to classroom facilities. In order to receive a grant, an eligible community school must fund at least 50% of the project and must use the moneys to increase classroom seating, serve unmet student needs, and show innovation in design so as to be replicable. Only high-performing community schools and newly established community schools implementing a model with a track record of high-quality academic performance are eligible to receive funds under the program.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	12-07-17
Reported, H. Education & Career Readiness	02-21-18
Passed House (96-0)	03-07-18
Reported, S. Education	---

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⁸ Section 503.05 of Am. Sub. H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly amended in Sections 3 and 4 of the bill.

