



John Rau

Bill Analysis

Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 462

123rd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Rep. Gardner

BILL SUMMARY

- Permits educational service centers to apply for and receive competitive grants available during the 1999-2001 biennium for alternative education programs.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Section 4.12 of Am. Sub. H.B. 282 of the 123rd General Assembly (Education Budget Act for the 1999-2001 biennium) authorizes the Department of Education to award grants to school districts for establishing and operating alternative education programs for at-risk and delinquent youth. That act requires the Department to award for these programs, from moneys appropriated for Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid, \$10 million in each fiscal year of the biennium to Urban 21 School Districts and \$10 million in each year of the biennium to rural and suburban school districts.¹ The bill provides that educational service centers also may apply for and receive grants from the \$10 million set aside for rural and suburban school districts. Presumably, the service centers will establish programs that will be shared by local school districts in their service areas and by other school districts that are client districts of the service centers.

Under the provisions of Am. Sub. H.B. 282, unchanged by this bill, programs supported by the grants must be focused on youth who have been expelled or suspended from school, who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out of school, who are habitually truant or disruptive, or who are on probation or parole from a facility operated by the Department of Youth Services. Criteria for awarding the grants, which must be developed by the Alternative

¹ *The Urban 21 School Districts are the following city school districts: Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, Toledo, Youngstown, Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, Elyria, Euclid, Hamilton, Lima, Lorain, Mansfield, Middletown, Parma, Springfield, South-Western, and Warren.*

Education Advisory Council, must give priority to projects that demonstrate collaboration among schools, juvenile courts, law enforcement agencies, local government, and other private and public organizations.² The criteria also must give priority to projects that include strategies to ensure enforcement of state school attendance laws, that are research-based, and that ensure data collection to facilitate evaluation of the projects. Grants must not be awarded to any project where the grant award would be the project's primary source of funding. Finally, the Department may waive compliance with any minimum education standard for any alternative school that receives one of these grants, if the Alternative Education Advisory Council recommends the waiver on the grounds that it will enable the school "to more effectively educate" students.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	09-28-99	p. 1229

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² *The Alternative Education Advisory Council was also established by Section 4.12 of Am. Sub. H.B. 282 of the 123rd G.A. The Council is made up of one representative from each of the following: Department of Education, Department of Youth Services, Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction, Department of Mental Health, Office of the Governor or alternatively the Office of the Lt. Governor, and the Office of the Attorney General.*