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Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 481

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Reidelbach, Collier, Hughes, Seitz, Flowers, Brinkman, Young, Roman, White, Willamowski, Schaffer, Gilb, Fessler, Hagan, Schmidt, Seaver

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires that whenever an explanation for the origins of life and its diversity is included in the instructional program of a school district or educational service center the instructional program must encourage the presentation of scientific evidence objectively and disclose the historical nature of origins of life science and any material assumptions on which the explanation is based.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill states that "[i]t is the intent of the General Assembly that to enhance the effectiveness of science education and to promote academic freedom and the neutrality of state government with respect to teachings that touch religious and nonreligious beliefs, it is necessary and desirable that 'origins science,' which seeks to explain the origins of life and its diversity, be conducted and taught objectively and without religious, naturalistic, or philosophic bias or assumption." In order to facilitate this intent, the bill provides that the instructional program of a school district or educational service center must encourage the presentation of scientific evidence regarding the origins of life and its diversity objectively--"without religious, naturalistic, or philosophic bias or assumption." The program must also require that whenever explanations regarding the origins of life are presented, students will also be provided with an appropriate explanation and disclosure of the historical nature of "origins science" and a disclosure of the use of any material assumption that may have provided a basis for that explanation. Finally, the program must encourage the development of a curriculum that helps students think critically, understand the full range of

scientific views that exist regarding the origins of life, and understand why origins science may be controversial.¹

HISTORY

| ACTION | DATE | JOURNAL ENTRY |
|------------|----------|---------------|
| Introduced | 01-23-02 | p. 1294 |

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¹ R.C. 3313.6013.