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Bill Analysis

Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 47

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Beatty, Core, Brinkman, Seitz, Miller, Key, Strahorn, Taylor, S. Patton, Skindell, Allen, DeGeeter, Koziura, Ujvagi, Barrett, Perry, Brown, Chandler, Healy, Hagan

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires every public and private high school (except community schools) to include in the requirements for graduation at least ten hours of instruction in personal economics.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background

In every high school, as part of the requirements for a high school diploma, a student must complete the high school's curriculum.¹ Continuing law prescribes a minimum high school curriculum for all public and private high schools (except community schools), which must consist of at least 20 units of classroom instruction specifically divided among several core subjects. A unit is 120 hours of instruction, except for a laboratory course for which a unit is 150 hours of instruction. For a physical education course, a half-unit is 120 hours. A school district board may require additional units but its curriculum must, at a minimum, require those units as specified in the statute.² The 20 units of study are specified as follows:

1 In addition, high school students of school districts, community schools (charter schools) and chartered nonpublic schools must pass the state high school proficiency or achievement tests to receive a diploma. Beginning with the class of 2007, the 9th grade proficiency tests are replaced by the 10th grade achievement tests, known as the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT). (R.C. 3313.61, 3313.612, 3313.615, and 3325.08, none in the bill.)

² R.C. 3313.603(A) and (B).

English Lang. Arts	4 units (480 hours)
Health	½ unit (60 hours)
Mathematics	3 units (360 hours)
Physical Education	½ unit (120 hours)
Science	3 units (360 to 450 hours), including 1 unit (120 to 150 hours) of biological sciences and 1 unit (120 to 150 hours) of physical sciences
Social Studies	3 units (360 hours), including ½ unit (60 hours) of American history and ½ unit (60 hours) of American government
Electives	6 units (720 hours), including 1 unit (or two ½ units) from business/technology, fine arts, and/or foreign language

In addition, continuing law requires the Department of Education to develop a packet of high school instructional materials on personal financial responsibility, including instructional materials on the avoidance of credit card abuse, and to distribute that packet to all school districts. A school district board may, but is not required to, adopt part or all of the materials included in the packet for incorporation into the district's curriculum.³

The bill

The bill specifies that within the content of the courses included in the 20 units of required high school instruction, every student must be required to complete at least ten cumulative hours of instruction in the area of personal economics, including, but not limited to, instruction in financial planning, financial decision-making, and consumer credit. The bill also provides that in developing this coursework in personal economics, a school district board or the curriculum planner for any nonpublic school may use any part of the packet of high school instructional materials on personal financial responsibility developed

³ R.C. 3301.0726, *not in the bill*.

by the Department of Education. The bill does not apply its requirement to community schools (charter schools).

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-08-05	pp. 191-192

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