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Bill Analysis

Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 328

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Key, Allen, Ujvagi, Barrett, Trakas, Distel, Woodard, Yuko, Reidelbach, Beatty, DeGeeter, DeBose, Sykes, Brown, Harwood, Skindell, Fende, Otterman

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires every public and private high school (except community schools) to include one-half hour of voter education instruction as part of the required American government course instruction.

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

The bill

The bill specifies that within the content of the required one-half unit of high school instruction in American government, every student must complete one-half hour of voter education instruction. The bill does not provide specifics as to course material. The bill does not apply its requirement to community schools (charter schools).

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	08-16-05	p. 1605

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