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Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

S.B. 44

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Fedor, Roberts, Armbruster, Gardner, Miller, Austria, Hagan, Brady, Prentiss, Spada, Zurz, Fingerhut

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the State Board of Education, by December 31, 2005, to adopt the standards for physical education in grades K through 12 developed by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE).
- Directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to appoint a physical education coordinator.
- Eliminates the requirement that physical education standards and model curricula are subject to approval by concurrent resolution by both houses of the General Assembly.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background

In accordance with current law, the State Board of Education has adopted statewide academic standards and model curricula for each of grades K through 12 in the core subjects of reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.¹ Current law further directs the State Board to adopt academic standards and model curricula in computer literacy for grades 3 through 12 and in both fine arts and

¹ R.C. 3301.079(A) and (B), not in the bill. The State Board adopted academic standards for reading, writing, and math on December 11, 2001. Model curricula for those subjects were adopted July 15, 2003. Standards for science and social studies were adopted December 10, 2002. Model curricula for science and social studies were adopted March 9, 2004.

foreign languages for grades K through 12.² School districts may use any of the model curricula as an instructional tool, but they are not required to do so.

Although not mandatory under current law, the State Board is permitted to adopt academic standards or a model curriculum for health or physical education. However, if the State Board intends to adopt health or physical education standards or model curricula (or subsequently revise them), the standards or curricula must receive legislative approval through passage of a concurrent resolution. The law specifies that neither chamber of the General Assembly may vote on a concurrent resolution approving health or physical education standards or curricula until its education committee holds at least one public hearing on the matter.³

Physical education standards

(R.C. 3301.0718(B) and (C))

The bill requires the State Board to adopt the most recent physical education standards for grades K through 12 developed by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE). NASPE is a nonprofit organization of physical education professionals and researchers that supports physical activity programs and promotes awareness of the importance of physical education for youth.⁴ The State Board must adopt the NASPE standards by December 31, 2005.⁵

The Department of Education must transmit the NASPE physical education standards to school districts in electronic form. If the standards cannot be transmitted electronically, the Department must use the least expensive means to make the standards available to districts. The bill also requires the Department to inform districts of revisions to the standards. This provision appears to require the State Board to update the physical education standards to reflect future changes by

² R.C. 3301.0718(A). Standards for these subjects were adopted by the State Board at its December 2003 meeting and the model curricula were adopted in November 2004.

³ R.C. 3301.0718(C).

⁴ See NASPE's website at www.aahperd.org/naspe/ for more information.

⁵ Current law, not changed by the bill, prohibits the State Board from adopting a diagnostic assessment or achievement test for any subject other than reading, writing, math, science, and social studies (R.C. 3301.0718(D)). Therefore, no diagnostic assessment or achievement test could be developed based on physical education standards.

NASPE. School districts are not required to utilize or meet any of the NASPE standards.

The bill eliminates the provision in current law prohibiting the State Board from formally adopting or revising standards or model curricula for physical education unless the General Assembly approves them by concurrent resolution following at least one public hearing in each chamber. Health standards and model curricula, however, remain subject to legislative approval as in current law. The bill does not require the State Board to adopt a model curriculum for the NASPE standards.

Physical education coordinator

(R.C. 3301.0718(B))

Under the bill, the Superintendent of Public Instruction must appoint a physical education coordinator within the Department of Education to provide guidance and oversight to school districts that follow the NASPE standards and to perform other duties assigned by the Superintendent. The physical education coordinator must be qualified for the position in terms of education, licensure, and experience, as determined by the Superintendent. The physical education coordinator's salary and other costs associated with the position must be paid from the Department's existing appropriations.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-03-05	p. 145

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