



## **S.B. 176**

126th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Sens. Fedor, Roberts, Hagan**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Prohibits new start-up community schools in the "Big-Eight" school districts and Pilot Project Area (Lucas County) districts, unless the district is in academic watch or academic emergency.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **Background**

Community schools (often called "charter schools") are public schools that operate independently from any school district under a contract with a sponsoring entity. Community schools often serve a particular educational purpose or a limited number of grades. Community schools are funded with state funds that are deducted from the state aid accounts of the school districts in which the enrolled students are entitled to attend school. Community schools may not charge tuition.

A conversion community school, created by converting an existing school district school, may be located in and sponsored by any school district in the state. On the other hand, a "start-up" community school may be located only in a "challenged school district." A challenged school district is any of the following: (1) a "Big-Eight" school district, (2) a school district in academic watch or academic emergency, or (3) a school district in the original community school pilot project area (Lucas County).<sup>1</sup>

#### **The bill**

The bill narrows the definition of a "challenged school district," restricting it to a school district that is in either a state of academic watch or academic

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3314.02(A)(3). The "Big-Eight" districts are Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown.

emergency. The bill thereby prohibits the creation of a new start-up community school in either a Big-Eight school district or Lucas County, unless the school district is in a state of academic watch or academic emergency.

However, the bill specifies that any start-up community schools established in a Big-Eight school district or a Lucas County school district prior to the bill's effective date may continue to operate. This authorization permits the renewal of current contracts.

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## **HISTORY**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>JOURNAL ENTRY</b>
Introduced	09-01-05	p. 1413

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