



H.B. 216

127th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Collier, Bacon, Seitz, Combs, Flowers, Hite, Adams

BILL SUMMARY

- Grants priority for state classroom facilities assistance to school districts that consolidate or make joint use of their facilities.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background

The Ohio School Facilities Commission administers several programs that provide state assistance to school districts and community schools in the acquisition of classroom facilities. The main program, the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP), is designed to provide each city, exempted village, and local school district with partial funding to address all of the district's classroom facilities needs. It is a graduated, cost-sharing program where a district's portion of the total cost of the project and priority for funding are based on the district's relative wealth. The poorest districts are served first and receive a greater amount of state assistance than wealthier districts will receive when it is their turn to be served.

Other programs have been established to address the particular needs of certain types of districts. The Exceptional Needs School Facilities Assistance Program provides low-wealth districts and "large land area" districts with funding in advance of their district-wide CFAP projects to construct single buildings in order to address acute health and safety issues. The Accelerated Urban School Building Assistance Program allows six urban school districts that had not received assistance under CFAP by June 30, 2002 to receive that assistance earlier than otherwise permitted.¹

¹ R.C. 3318.38, not in the bill. This program applies only to Akron, Dayton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo. Canton and Youngstown (the other two urban Big-Eight School Districts) began receiving regular CFAP assistance prior to that date.

Reprioritizing CFAP funding

(R.C. 3318.023 and 3318.32)

Current law requires the commission to adopt rules providing guidelines for prioritizing facility funding for school districts that voluntarily develop joint use or other cooperative agreements that significantly improve the efficiency of the use of the facility space within or between districts. If the commission decides a cooperative agreement complies with the guidelines, it may advance the funding priority prescribed under the school facilities assistance law for projects of school districts that are parties to such an agreement. Current law also requires the commission, when it conditionally approves projects for school districts under CFAP each fiscal year, to identify the next ten school districts from lowest to highest in order of wealth ranking calculated for the prior fiscal year that have not been conditionally approved. Those "next ten" are granted priority for future assistance over most other school districts.²

The bill requires the commission to adopt rules providing guidelines for prioritizing facility funding for school districts that voluntarily consolidate all of their territory into one school district under current law permitting various forms of school district consolidation. The bill requires the commission to advance the funding priority under CFAP for such consolidated school districts that comply with the adopted guidelines and, in addition, requires (instead of permits) the commission to advance the funding priorities for school districts that are parties to a joint use or cooperative agreement that comply with the existing guidelines. Finally, the bill prioritizes future funding for the joint or cooperative use agreement districts and the consolidated districts ahead of the "next ten" districts identified as next in line to receive future funding under CFAP.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-09-07

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² Under current law, the following school districts have priority over the "next ten" school districts: (1) districts receiving assistance under the Accelerated Urban Program, (2) districts receiving assistance under the Exceptional Needs School Facilities Assistance Program, (3) districts that have accepted the conditional approval of the commission under CFAP, and (4) so-called "1990 Districts" that received project funding under CFAP as it existed prior to May 20, 1997.