



Hannah K. Wann

Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 326

127th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Gerberry, Bolon, Book, Dodd, Fende, Harwood, Letson, Okey, Seitz

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires state institutions of higher education to require six semester hours of coursework in government or political science that covers the U.S. Constitution and state constitutions, with an emphasis on the Ohio Constitution, as a condition of awarding an undergraduate degree, diploma, or certificate.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill requires all state institutions of higher education¹ to require students to take six semester hours, or the equivalent, of coursework in government or political science that addresses the U.S. Constitution and state constitutions and emphasizes the Ohio Constitution, as a condition of granting any type of undergraduate degree, including a baccalaureate degree, associate's degree, or academic certificate. In other words, under the bill, undergraduate students at state institutions of higher education must take six semester hours or the equivalent in a government course in order to graduate with an undergraduate credential. The requirement applies to all undergraduate students who enroll on or after July 1 following the bill's effective date.

However, the bill does provide for alternative methods of "testing out" or applying credit toward the requirement. State institutions of higher education can determine that a student has satisfied this requirement in whole or in part on the basis of any of the following: (1) the student's score on an Advanced Placement examination in U.S. government, (2) the student's score on a school-administered examination to determine the level of coursework appropriate to the student, or (3)

¹The term "state institution of higher education" includes all state universities, community colleges, state community colleges, university branches, and technical colleges and the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine.

credit granted to the student for completion of equivalent coursework at another state institution of higher education, a private nonprofit institution of higher education in Ohio, or an accredited post-secondary institution in another state.

The bill also allows up to three semester hours, or the equivalent, to be granted toward the requirement for equivalent coursework through a reserve officer training corps (R.O.T.C.) unit at a state institution of higher education, a private nonprofit institution of higher education in Ohio, or an accredited post-secondary institution in another state. (R.C. 3345.063.)

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	09-25-07

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