



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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S.B. 173

128th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Cates, Seitz, Grendell, Schaffer

BILL SUMMARY

- Delays for one year, until July 1, 2012, the earliest effective date of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's rules regarding school districts' expenditure of funds for core teachers.
- Delays for one year, until the 2011-2012 school year, the requirement for school districts to provide all-day kindergarten for all kindergarten students.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Spending rules for school districts

(R.C. 3306.25)

Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th General Assembly (the main operating budget for the 2010-2011 biennium) requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adopt rules prescribing spending standards and reporting requirements for the various components funded under that act's new school funding model. In doing so, the Superintendent must classify the components into three separate categories: (1) core academic strategies, (2) academic improvement, and (3) other funded components. The Superintendent is to adopt spending standards only for the first two categories, and the standards will not apply uniformly. School districts receiving a report card rating of "excellent" will be completely exempt from compliance. Moreover, the spending standards for the academic improvement components will apply only to districts that have been rated "academic watch" or "academic emergency" for two or more

consecutive years. Districts that do not comply with all applicable spending requirements could face sanctions.¹

Currently, the Superintendent's spending rules cannot take effect before July 1, 2011. The bill delays the earliest effective date of rules pertaining to the expenditure of funds calculated for the core teacher factor (see below) until July 1, 2012. The rules regarding other components of the funding model could still take effect July 1, 2011.

Background--core teacher factor

H.B. 1's funding model contains an "instructional services support component," which funds core teachers and certain specialized teachers.² A "core teacher" is one who provides instruction in English language arts, math, science, social studies, or foreign language.³ Funding for core teachers is calculated based on a student-teacher ratio of 25:1 for grades 4 to 12 and the following student-teacher ratios for grades K to 3: (1) 19:1 in fiscal years 2010 and 2011, (2) 17:1 in fiscal years 2012 and 2013, and (3) 15:1 in fiscal year 2014 and later.⁴

All-day kindergarten

(R.C. 3321.05)

The bill delays for one year, until the 2011-2012 school year, the requirement that each school district provide all-day kindergarten for all kindergarten students.

Background

Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th General Assembly (the main operating budget for the 2010-2011 biennium) requires each school district, beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, to provide all-day kindergarten to each kindergarten student, except that the district must honor the wishes of parents who want their children to attend class only for a half day. However, the district may apply to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a waiver of the requirement to provide all kindergartners with all-day kindergarten. In deciding whether to grant the waiver, the Superintendent may consider space concerns or alternative delivery approaches used by the district.

¹ See R.C. 3306.33 (not in the bill) for the list of prescribed sanctions. School districts may apply to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a waiver from standards or requirements related to the funding model, including most of the Superintendent's expenditure rules (R.C. 3306.40, not in the bill).

² R.C. 3306.05, not in the bill.

³ R.C. 3306.02(F), not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 3306.05(B)(1), not in the bill.

HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced

09-24-09

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