Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Hannah K. Wann

H.B. 115

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Stebelton, Beck, Blair, Blessing, Brenner, Butler, Derickson, Grossman, Huffman, J. Adams, Martin, Mecklenborg, Newbold, Sears, Snitchler, Stautberg, Uecker

BILL SUMMARY

- Over a six-year period, gradually increases to 20,000 the number of Educational Choice scholarships that may be awarded annually.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Under current law, up to 14,000 students may be awarded Educational Choice scholarships in each school year. The bill gradually increases that limit over a six-year period, ultimately capping the number of available scholarships at 20,000 after the 2016-2017 school year, as shown in the table below.[1]

School year	Number of available scholarships
Each school year through 2011-2012	14,000
2012-2013 school year	15,000
2013-2014 school year	16,000
2014-2015 school year	17,000
2015-2016 school year	18,000
2016-2017 school year	19,000
2017-2018 school year and thereafter	20,000

[1] R.C. 3310.02.

Background

The Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program provides scholarships to students attending or assigned to lower performing public schools to pay tuition at chartered nonpublic schools. The maximum amount of each scholarship is $4,250 for grades K to 8, and $5,000 for grades 9 to 12. To finance the scholarships, the Department of Education deducts from the state aid account of each scholarship student's resident school district $5,200, which is used to fund both the Educational Choice Program and the Pilot Project Scholarship Program (the Cleveland voucher program).

A student who receives an Educational Choice scholarship may continue to receive annual scholarships through grade 12, so long as the student's resident district stays the same or the student transfers to a new district and would be assigned to a qualifying school. Additionally, to remain eligible for the scholarships, the student must take each state achievement assessment prescribed for the student's grade level and have 20 or fewer unexcused absences during the school year.[2]

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-22-11

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[2] R.C. 3310.03, 3310.08, and 3310.09 (none in the bill).