



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Carol Napp

H.B. 543

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Anielski, Grossman, Okey, Antonio, Baker, Stinziano, Patmon, Milkovich, Sears, Pillich, Brenner, Stebelton, Roegner, Wachtmann, O'Brien, Gonzales

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires public schools, including community (charter) schools and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) schools, to train teachers and certain other staff in youth suicide awareness and prevention.
- Identifies the bill as the "Jason Flatt Act, Ohio, in honor of Joseph Anielski."

CONTENT AND OPERATION

In-service training on youth suicide awareness and prevention

The bill requires school district boards of education, governing authorities of community (charter) schools and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) schools, and governing boards of educational service centers (ESCs) to provide training in youth suicide awareness and prevention to all teachers, administrators, counselors, nurses, and school psychologists they employ and any other personnel the boards or authorities determine appropriate. Each board of education and other school governing authority must either (1) adopt or adapt the curriculum developed by the Ohio Department of Education or (2) develop its own curriculum in consultation with public or private agencies or persons involved in youth suicide awareness and prevention programs. The training counts toward the satisfaction of requirements for professional development required by a board of education or other school governing authority and may be accomplished through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials approved by the board or authority.¹

¹ R.C. 3319.073(D); see also R.C. 3314.03(A)(11)(d) (not in the bill) and 3326.11 (not in the bill).

The bill requires this training to be incorporated into the in-service training required by existing law for persons employed by schools as nurses, teachers, administrators, counselors, or school psychologists. This in-service training currently includes training on the following topics: (1) prevention of child abuse, violence, and substance abuse, (2) promotion of positive youth development, (3) school safety and violence prevention, (4) beginning November 4, 2012, the school's anti-bullying policies, and (5) in the case of middle schools and high schools, the prevention of dating violence. Employees must complete at least four hours of this in-service training within two years after commencing employment and every five years thereafter.²

The bill specifies that it is to be known as the "Jason Flatt Act, Ohio, in honor of Joseph Anielski."³

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-09-12

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² R.C. 3319.073(A), (B), and (C).

³ Section 3.

