



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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H.B. 18

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Patmon, Barnes, Young, Cera, Thompson

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Director of Public Safety, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to develop a process for schools to apply for federal and other financial assistance in the installation of metal detectors at classroom building entrances.
- Requires the Executive Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to take all actions necessary to obtain funding from federal or other sources for the acquisition, installation, and operation of metal detectors.
- States that no district or school is required to install metal detectors or to apply for financial assistance to aid in the installation of metal detectors.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Process for applying for financial assistance for the installation of metal detectors

The bill requires the Director of Public Safety, within 90 days after the bill's effective date, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to develop a process for school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools to apply for financial assistance for the purpose of installing metal detectors at the entrances of one or more classroom buildings.¹ As noted below, the bill expressly states, however, that the decision to install metal detectors rests with a district or school governing board within its own discretion.

¹ R.C. 3313.5310(A).

The bill does specify that beginning 180 days after the bill's effective date, districts and schools may apply for financial assistance for the installation of metal detectors using the Director's process.²

Funding for the installation, acquisition, and operation of metal detectors

The bill also requires the Executive Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to "take all actions necessary" to obtain funding from federal or other sources for the acquisition, installation, and operation of metal detectors.³ The bill specifically cites the federal Homeland Security Program as a potential funding source.

Although the bill states that districts and schools may apply for financial assistance in the *installation* of metal detectors at school buildings (as described above), it does not specify whether they may apply for and receive funds for the *acquisition* or *operation* of metal detectors. However, because the bill also requires the Executive Director to take all actions necessary to obtain funding for the acquisition, installation, and operation of metal detectors, it seems likely that schools would be permitted to apply for these funds in the same manner that they may apply for assistance for installation.

Expressly no requirement to install metal detectors

The bill expressly states that the installation of metal detectors is voluntary and that no district or school is required to install metal detectors or to apply for financial assistance for the purpose of installing metal detectors.⁴ Moreover, the bill states that its provisions should not be construed as the sole method to fund the installation of metal detectors in schools.

HISTORY

| ACTION | DATE |
|---------------|-------------|
| Introduced | 01-30-13 |

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² R.C. 3313.5310(C).

³ R.C. 3313.5310(B).

⁴ R.C. 3313.5310(C).

