



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Bethany Boyd

Sub. S.B. 272*

130th General Assembly

(As Reported by H. State and Local Government)

Sens. Cafaro and Eklund, Coley, Smith, LaRose, Brown, Burke, Hite, Hughes, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager, Peterson, Skindell, Uecker

BILL SUMMARY

- Designates March as "Ohio Maple Syrup Products Month."
- Designates the month of September as "School Bullying Prevention Awareness Month" to highlight the policies prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying adopted by schools in Ohio and the required notice of those policies.
- Designates February 21 as Rascal Flatts Day.
- Designates the month of September as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month."

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill designates:

(1) March as "Ohio Maple Syrup Products Month;"¹

(2) September as "School Bullying Prevention Awareness Month;"²

(3) February 21 as Rascal Flatts Day;³ and

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House State and Local Government Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 5.2288.

² R.C. 5.2296.

³ R.C. 5.26.

(4) September as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month."⁴

The bill specifies that Rascal Flatts Day is in honor of the country music group, Rascal Flatts, consisting of Gary LeVox, Jay DeMarcus, and Joe Don Rooney.

The bill designates the month of September as "School Bullying Prevention Awareness Month" to highlight the policies prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying adopted by schools in the state and the required notice of those policies, which are sent annually to parents and guardians.⁵ The bill states that the enacting statute is to be known as the "School Bullying Prevention and Awareness Act."⁶

Continuing law requires each school district, community school, and STEM school to adopt a policy prohibiting student harassment, intimidation, or bullying on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. Each policy must define the term "harassment, intimidation, or bullying" that includes the definition prescribed in statute, and must include procedures for reporting, responding to, and documenting prohibited incidents, procedures for notifying parents of students involved in a prohibited incident, strategies for protecting victims from retaliation or additional harassment after a report, and disciplinary procedures for perpetrators. The policy must be included in student handbooks and in publications that set forth the standards of conduct for schools and students. Employee training materials also must include information on the policy.⁷

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-04-14
Reported, S. State Gov't Oversight & Reform	04-08-14
Passed Senate (32-0)	05-28-14
Reported, H. State and Local Government	---

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⁴ R.C. 5.27.

⁵ R.C. 5.2296.

⁶ Section 2.

⁷ R.C. 3313.666, not in the bill. The requirements of R.C. 3313.666 are applied to community schools and STEM schools by references in R.C. 3314.03(A)(11)(d) and 3326.11, neither in the bill.

