
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION (BOARD OF REGENTS)

- Renames the office of the Board of Regents as the "Department of Higher Education."
- Renames the Chancellor of the Board of Regents as the "Director of Higher Education."
- Allows a community college, technical college, or state community college to offer bachelor's degree programs, upon receiving approval from the Director of Higher Education, in subject areas that are not the same or substantially similar as (1) those currently offered by any state university within 30 miles of the college or (2) those that a state university plans to offer within a year of the college's application.
- Requires the Director to conduct two studies, one not later than December 31, 2018, and one not later than December 31, 2020, to determine the effects of bachelor's programs at two-year colleges on fulfilling the needs of students and local industry and to submit those studies to the General Assembly and Governor.
- For fiscal year 2016, limits the increases of in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees for:
 - (1) State universities and the Northeast Ohio Medical University to 2% or \$93, whichever is higher, over the previous year;
 - (2) Regional campuses to 2% or \$116, whichever is higher, over the previous year; and
 - (3) Community colleges, state community colleges, and technical colleges to 2% or \$83, whichever is higher, over the previous year.
- For fiscal year 2017, prohibits an increase in in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees for all state institutions of higher education.
- Qualifies a veteran for in-state tuition at a state institution of higher education, if the veteran (1) is receiving federal veterans' education benefits under the G.I. Bill, (2) served on active duty for at least 90 days, (3) enrolls within three years of discharge from active duty, and (4) resides in the state as of the first day of a term of enrollment.
- Qualifies a veteran's spouse or dependent for in-state tuition at a state institution of higher education, if the spouse or dependent (1) is receiving transferred federal veterans' education benefits under the G.I. Bill from a veteran who served on active



duty for at least 90 days, (2) enrolls within three years of the veteran's discharge from active duty, and (3) resides in the state as of the first day of a term of enrollment.

- Authorizes the Director to set statewide entry standards for teacher preparation programs offered at institutions of higher education.
- Moves, from December 31 to February 15, the annual deadline for the Director to report to the Governor and the General Assembly the aggregate academic growth data for students of graduates of teacher preparation programs.
- Eliminates a requirement that the Director annually (1) submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report including a description of advanced standing courses offered by public and chartered nonpublic schools and (2) post the information on the Director's website.
- Requires each state institution of higher education, not later than January 1, 2016, and every five years thereafter on January 1, to evaluate, based on enrollment and student performance, all courses and programs the institution offers.
- Eliminates the requirement that the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine to have an advisory committee.
- Makes changes regarding the administration of scholarship program reserve funds.

Board of Regents name change

(R.C. 121.03, 125.901, 1713.02, 1713.03, 1713.031, 1713.04, 1713.05, 1713.06, 1713.09, 1713.25, 3301.079, 3313.603, 3313.902, 3319.22, 3319.223, 3319.61, 3333.01, 3333.011, 3333.012 (renumbered from 3333.031), 3333.021, 3333.03, 3333.032, 3333.04, 3333.041, 3333.0414, 3333.042, 3333.043, 3333.044, 3333.045, 3333.047, 3333.048, 3333.049, 3333.0410, 3333.0411, 3333.0412, 3333.0413, 3333.05, 3333.06, 3333.07, 3333.071, 3333.08, 3333.09, 3333.10, 3333.11, 3333.12, 3333.121, 3333.122, 3333.123, 3333.124, 3333.13, 3333.14, 3333.15, 3333.16, 3333.161, 3333.162, 3333.163, 3333.164, 3333.17, 3333.171, 3333.18, 3333.19, 3333.20, 3333.21, 3333.22, 3333.23, 3333.25, 3333.26, 3333.28, 3333.29, 3333.30, 3333.31, 3333.33, 3333.34, 3333.342, 3333.35, 3333.36, 3333.37, 3333.372, 3333.373, 3333.374, 3333.375, 3333.39, 3333.391, 3333.392, 3333.43, 3333.44, 3333.50, 3333.55, 3333.58, 3333.59, 3333.61, 3333.611, 3333.612, 3333.613, 3333.62, 3333.63, 3333.64, 3333.65, 3333.66, 3333.67, 3333.68, 3333.69, 3333.71, 3333.72, 3333.73, 3333.731, 3333.74, 3333.75, 3333.76, 3333.77, 3333.78, 3333.79, 3333.82, 3333.83, 3333.84, 3333.86, 3333.87, 3333.90, 3333.91, 3334.08, 3345.022, 3345.05, 3345.06, 3345.061, 3345.32, 3345.35, 3345.421, 3345.45,



3345.48, 3345.50, 3345.51, 3345.54, 3345.692, 3345.70, 3345.72, 3345.73, 3345.74, 3345.75, 3345.76, 3345.81, 3354.01, 3354.071, 3354.09, 3357.01, 3357.071, 3357.09, 3357.19, 3358.071, 3365.02, 3365.07, 3365.15, 4763.01, 5104.30, 5709.93, 5747.01, 5751.20, 5910.08, and 5919.341; Sections 263.210, 263.340, 369.150, 369.170, 369.380, 369.550, and 733.10)

The bill renames the administrative office of the Ohio Board of Regents as the "Department of Higher Education" and the Chancellor of the Board of Regents as the "Director of Higher Education." The bill maintains the current law that the Board of Regents acts as an advisory board to the Director.

Bachelor's degree programs at two-year colleges

(R.C. 3333.0414, 3354.071, 3357.071, and 3358.071; conforming changes in R.C. 3354.01, 3354.09, 3357.01, 3357.09, 3357.19, 3358.01, and 3358.08)

Approval for two-year colleges to offer bachelor's degree programs

The bill permits the board of trustees of any community college, technical college, or state community college to apply to the Director of Higher Education for approval to offer bachelor's degree programs in subject areas that are not either of the following:

(1) The same or substantially similar subject areas currently offered at any state university, either on its main campus or a regional campus, or university branch, that is within 30 miles of the main campus of the college;

(2) The same or substantially similar subject areas that a state university plans to offer on its main campus, regional campus, or university branch within one year of the date the college submits its application for approval.

Before granting approval to a program, the Director must determine and certify that there is a demonstrated need for such a program in the geographic area of the community college, technical college, or state community college. If the Director grants approval, the college may offer such programs and award the appropriate bachelor's degrees to students upon completion of the programs.

Study of bachelor's degree programs offered by two-year colleges

The bill requires the Director to conduct and complete two studies of the bachelor's degree programs approved and offered by community colleges, technical colleges, and state community colleges under the bill's provisions to determine the effects of the programs on fulfilling the needs of students and local industry. The first study must be completed not later than December 31, 2018, and the second study must



be completed not later than December 31, 2020. Each study must be submitted to the General Assembly and the Governor.

Cap on undergraduate tuition increases

(Section 369.170)

For fiscal year 2016 (the 2015-2016 academic year), the bill requires the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education to limit increases of in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees as follows:

(1) For each state university and the Northeast Ohio Medical University, not more than 2% or \$93, whichever is higher, over what the institution charged the previous year;

(2) For each university regional campus, not more than 2% or \$116, whichever is higher, over what the institution charged the previous year; and

(3) For each community college, state community college, or technical college, not more than 2% or \$83, whichever is higher, over what the institution charged the previous year.

For fiscal year 2017 (the 2016-2017 academic year), the bill prohibits the boards of trustees of each state institution of higher education from increasing its in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees over what the institution charged for the 2015-2016 academic year.

As in previous biennia when the General Assembly capped tuition increases, the bill's limits do not apply to increases required to comply with institutional covenants related to the institution's obligations or to meet unfunded legal mandates or legally binding prior obligations or commitments. Further, the Director of Higher Education, with Controlling Board approval, may modify the limitations to respond to exceptional circumstances as the Director identifies.

These limitations do not apply to institutions that participate in an undergraduate tuition guarantee program.⁸⁸

⁸⁸ R.C. 3345.48, not in the bill.



In-state tuition for veterans, spouses, and dependents

(R.C. 3333.31)

The bill qualifies a veteran for in-state tuition at state institutions of higher education, if the veteran is the recipient of federal veterans' education benefits under the "All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program" (also called the Montgomery G.I. Bill) or the "Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Program" (also called the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill). In order to qualify, the veteran also must (1) have served on active duty for at least 90 days, (2) enroll within three years of discharge from active duty, and (3) reside in the state as of the first day of a term of enrollment at the institution.

The bill also qualifies a veteran's spouse or dependent for in-state tuition at state institutions of higher education, if (1) the spouse or dependent is the recipient of transferred education benefits under either of the aforementioned G.I. Bills, and (2) the veteran from who the benefits were transferred served on active duty for at least 90 days. Additionally, the spouse or dependent, whichever is applicable, must enroll within three years of the veteran's discharge from active duty and reside in the state as of the first day of a term of enrollment at the institution.

Current law, unaffected by the bill, also qualifies a veteran and the veteran's spouse and dependents for in-state tuition under a different set of conditions. To qualify under that provision, the veteran must have (1) served at least one year on active military duty or (2) been killed in action or declared a prisoner of war (POW) or missing in action (MIA). Additionally, if the veteran is seeking residency status for in-state tuition, the veteran must have established domicile in the state as of the first day of a term of enrollment. If the spouse or dependent is seeking such status, both the veteran and the spouse or dependent, whichever is applicable, must have established domicile, unless the veteran was killed in action or declared POW or MIA.

It appears that, under the bill, veterans and their spouses and dependents may continue to qualify under the current law or may qualify under the new provision, so long as all of the applicable criteria are met.

Entry standards for teacher preparation programs

(R.C. 3333.048)

The bill authorizes the Director of Higher Education to set statewide entry standards for teacher preparation programs that are offered at institutions of higher education and approved by the Director.



Under current law, the Director must establish metrics and set standards and requirements for educator preparation programs. The Director also grants approval for such programs based on these standards. However, the Director is not specifically authorized to establish entry standards for the programs. Therefore, such standards are likely left to the discretion of the board of trustees of each higher education institution, as each institution typically sets its own standards for admissions and entry into academic programs.

Report on performance of teacher preparation program graduates

(R.C. 3333.041)

Moves, from December 31 to February 15, the annual deadline for the Director of Higher Education to report to the Governor and the General Assembly the aggregate academic growth data for students of graduates of teacher preparation programs.

Annual report on advanced standing programs

(R.C. 3333.041)

The bill eliminates a requirement that the Director of Higher Education annually submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report including a description of advanced standing courses offered by public and chartered nonpublic schools. It also eliminates the requirement to post the information included in the report on the Director's website. Advanced standing programs include the College Credit Plus (CCP) program (see "**College Credit Plus program changes**" under **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** above), Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate diploma courses, and Early College High School (ECHS) programs.⁸⁹

Evaluation of courses and programs

(R.C. 3345.35)

The bill requires each state institution of high education to evaluate by January 1, 2016, and every five years thereafter by January 1, all courses and programs offered by the institution. The evaluation must be based on enrollment and student performance. For courses with low enrollment, the institution must evaluate the benefits of collaboration with other state institutions, based on geographic region, to deliver the course. Finally, each institution must submit its findings to the Director of Higher Education not later than 30 days after completion of the evaluation.

⁸⁹ R.C. 3313.6013(A), not in the bill.

Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine advisory committee

(R.C. 3337.10; repealed R.C. 3337.11)

The bill eliminates the requirement for the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine to have an advisory committee. It also eliminates all requirements related to the committee's structure and membership, including provisions specifying the election of officers and quorums at committee meetings. Finally, it eliminates a duty of the committee to annually submit recommendations to Ohio University's Board of Trustees.

Deadline for certification of reserve fund transfer of scholarship programs

(R.C. 3333.124, 3333.613, 5910.08, and 5919.341)

The bill authorizes the Director of Budget and Management to transfer funds from the reserve funds of the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program, Ohio First Scholarship Program, Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, and War Orphans Scholarship Program in order to meet General Revenue Fund (GRF) obligations, if it is determined that GRF appropriations are insufficient. Current law authorizes the Director to transfer "any unencumbered balance" of those funds to the GRF.

The bill authorizes the Director of Budget and Management to transfer the unexpended balance of the amounts initially transferred to the GRF back to those scholarship reserve funds, if the funds transferred from those reserve funds are not needed. The bill also eliminates an authorization for the Director to seek Controlling Board approval to establish appropriations for the National Guard Scholarship Reserve Fund.

Finally the bill revises, from July 1 of each fiscal year to "as soon as possible following the end of each fiscal year," the deadline by which the Director of Higher Education must certify to the Director of Budget and Management the unencumbered balance of GRF appropriations made in the immediately preceding fiscal year for the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program, Ohio First Scholarship Program, Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, and War Orphans Scholarship Program.

