
JOINT EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- Establishes the Joint Education Oversight Committee, a joint committee of the General Assembly.
- Requires the committee to review and evaluate education programs at schools and state institutions of higher education that receive financial assistance.

Joint Education Oversight Committee

(R.C. 103.44, 103.45, 103.46, 103.47, 103.48, 103.49, and 103.50; Section 701.70)

The bill establishes the Joint Education Oversight Committee, a joint committee of the House of Representative and Senate. The committee is to select, for review and evaluation, education programs at school districts, other public schools,⁸⁶ and state institutions of higher education⁸⁷ that receive state financial assistance in any form. The reviews and evaluations may include any of the following:

(1) Assessment of the uses school districts, other public schools, and state institutions of higher education make of state money they receive, and a determination of the extent to which that money improves district, school, or institutional performance in the areas for which the money was intended to be used;

(2) Determination of whether an education program meets its intended goals, has adequate operating or administrative procedures and fiscal controls, encompasses only authorized activities, has any undesirable or unintended effects, and is efficiently managed; and

(3) Examination of pilot programs developed and initiated in school districts, at other public schools, and at state institutions of higher education to determine whether the programs suggest innovative, effective ways to deal with problems that may exist in other districts, schools, or institutions of higher education, and to assess the fiscal costs and likely impact of adopting the programs throughout the state.

⁸⁶ "Other public schools" include the State School for the Deaf, the State School for the Blind, community schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools.

⁸⁷ "State institution of higher education" means any state university or college, community college, state community college, university branch, or technical college.



The committee must prepare a report of the results of each review and evaluation that it conducts, and must transmit the report to the General Assembly.

If the General Assembly directs the committee to submit a study to the General Assembly by a particular date, the committee, upon a majority vote of its members, may modify the scope and due date of the study to accommodate the availability of data and resources.

Investigations and inspections

The bill authorizes the committee and its employees to investigate any school district, other public school, or state institution of higher education for the purposes of fulfilling its duties. All of the following apply to an investigation:

(1) The committee and its employees may enter and inspect a school district, other public school, or state institution of higher education for the conduct of the investigation;

(2) A member or employee of the committee is not required to give advance notice of, or to make prior arrangements before, an inspection; and

(3) No person may deny a member or employee of the committee access to an office when access is needed for an inspection.

Each inspection must be conducted during the normal business hours of the office being inspected, unless the chairperson of the committee determines that the inspection must be conducted outside of normal business hours. The chairperson may make such a determination only because of an emergency circumstance or other justifiable cause that furthers the committee's mission. If the chairperson makes such a determination, the chairperson must specify the reason for the determination in the grant of prior approval for the inspection.

A member or employee of the committee may not conduct an inspection unless the committee chairperson grants prior approval for the inspection. The chairperson may not grant approval unless the committee, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House authorize the chairperson to grant the approval.

The chairperson of the committee, with prior approval of the committee, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, may issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum in aid of the committee's performance of its duties. A subpoena may require a witness in any part of the state to appear before the committee at a time and place designated in the subpoena to testify. A subpoena duces tecum may require witnesses or other persons in any part of the state to produce books, papers, records,

and other tangible evidence before the committee at a time and place designated in the subpoena duces tecum. A subpoena or subpoena duces tecum must be issued, served, and returned, and has consequences, in accordance with continuing law that applies to the subpoena powers of other committees of the General Assembly.

The chairperson of the committee may request that the Superintendent of Public Instruction or the Director of Higher Education appear before the committee. If so requested, the Superintendent or the Director must appear before the committee at the time and place specified in the request.

The chairperson of the committee may administer oaths to witnesses appearing before the committee.

The committee also may review bills and resolutions regarding education that are introduced or offered in the General Assembly, and may prepare a report of its review. The committee must transmit its report to the General Assembly. The report may include the committee's determination regarding the bill's or resolution's desirability as a matter of public policy. But the committee's decision on whether and when to review a bill or resolution has no effect on the General Assembly's authority to act on the bill or resolution.

Committee membership and appointment

The committee is to consist of the following ten members of the General Assembly:

(1) Five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, three of whom are members of the majority party and two of whom are members of the minority party; and

(2) Five members of the Senate appointed by the President, three of whom are members of the majority party and two of whom are members of the minority party.

The term of each member begins on the day of appointment and ends on expiration or other termination of the member's term as a member of the House or Senate. The Speaker and President must make initial appointments to the committee not later than 30 days after the effective date of the bill. Subsequent appointments must be made not later than 15 days after the commencement of the first regular session of each General Assembly. Members may be reappointed. A vacancy on the committee must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

In odd-numbered years, the Speaker must designate one of the majority members from the House as chairperson and the President must designate one of the



minority members from the Senate as the ranking minority member. In even-numbered years, the President must designate one of the majority members from the Senate as the chairperson and the Speaker must designate one of the minority members from the House of Representatives as the ranking minority member.

In appointing members from the minority, and in designating ranking minority members, the President and Speaker must consult with the Minority Leader of their respective houses.

The committee must meet at the call of the chairperson, but not less often than once each calendar month, unless the chairperson and ranking minority member agree that the chairperson should not call the committee to meet for a particular month.

Member compensation

Committee members, when engaged in their duties as members of the committee on days when there is not a voting session of the member's house of the General Assembly, must be paid at the per diem rate of \$150, and their necessary traveling expenses. These amounts must be paid from the funds appropriated for the payment of expenses of legislative committees.

Committee staff

The bill authorizes the committee to employ professional, technical, and clerical employees as are necessary for the committee to be able successfully and efficiently to perform its duties. All the employees will be in the unclassified service and serve at the committee's pleasure. The committee also may contract for the services of persons who are qualified by education and experience to advise, consult with, or otherwise assist the committee in the performance of its duties.

