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ETCCD9 Information Technology Service Fund

R.C. 3353.15

Creates the Information Technology Service Fund (Fund 5JU0), consisting of money received by eTech pursuant to agreements with educational entities for the provision of information technology services to support initiatives to align education from preschool through college, and any other money deposited into the fund by eTech.

Specifies that money in the fund is to be used to provide the services specified in the agreements, including implementation and maintenance of an electronic clearinghouse for student transcript transfers and development of the education data repository. Specifies investment earnings of the fund to be credited to the fund.

Fiscal effect: The bill appropriates approximately \$1.5 million in each fiscal year for SSR Fund 5JU0 appropriation item, Information Technology Services, for eTech's enterprise software development that serves Ohio's P-20 education community.

ETCCD1 Statehouse News Bureau

Section: 283.20

Specifies that GRF appropriation item 935401, Statehouse News Bureau, be used solely to support the operation of the Ohio Statehouse News Bureau.

ETCCD2 Ohio Government Telecommunications Services

Section: 283.20

Specifies that GRF appropriation item 935402, Ohio Government Telecommunications Services, be used solely to support the operation of the Ohio Government Telecommunications Services, which include providing multimedia support to the state government and its affiliated organizations and broadcasting the activities of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of state government.

Executive**ETCCD3 Technology Operations****Section: 283.20**

Specifies that GRF appropriation item 935409, Technology Operations, be used to pay expenses of eTech's network infrastructure, which includes the television and radio transmission infrastructure and the K-12 telecommunity infrastructure. Authorizes eTech to use the appropriation to cover student costs for taking advanced placement courses and courses that the Chancellor of the Board of Regents has determined to be eligible for postsecondary credit through the OhioLearns Gateway. Specifies that, to the extent that funds remain available for the purpose, public school students taking courses through OhioLearns are eligible to receive a fee waiver to cover the cost of participating in one course. Specifies that fee waivers be distributed until the funds appropriated to support the waivers have been exhausted.

ETCCD4 Content, Development, Acquisition, and Distribution**Section: 283.20**

Specifies that GRF appropriation item 935410, Content Development, Acquisition, and Distribution, be used for the development, acquisition, and distribution of information resources by public media and radio reading services and for educational use in the classroom and online. Makes the following earmarks:

- (1) Up to \$658,099 in each fiscal year to be allocated equally among Ohio's 12 educational television stations and used with the advice and approval of eTech. Specifies that funds be used for the production of interactive instructional programming series with priority given to resources aligned with state academic content standards in consultation with ODE and for teleconferences to support eTech. Requires that the programming be targeted to the needs of the poorest 200 school districts as determined by the district's adjusted valuation per pupil as defined in former section 3317.0213 of the Revised Code as that section existed prior to June 30, 2005.
- (2) Up to \$1,749,283 in each fiscal year to be distributed by eTech to support the operations of Ohio's qualified public educational television stations and radio stations. Specifies that the funds be distributed pursuant to an allocation formula used by the former Ohio Educational Telecommunications Network Commission unless a substitute formula is developed by eTech in consultation with Ohio's qualified educational television stations and radio stations.

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(3) Up to \$199,712 in each fiscal year to be distributed by eTech to support the operations of Ohio's qualified radio reading services. Specifies that the funds be distributed pursuant to an allocation formula used by the former Ohio Educational Telecommunications Network Commission unless a substitute formula is developed by eTech in consultation with Ohio's qualified radio reading services.

ETCCD5 Technology Integration and Professional Development**Section: 283.30**

Specifies that GRF appropriation item 935411, Technology Integration and Professional Development, be used by eTech for the provision of staff development, hardware, software, telecommunications services, and information resources in support of educational uses of technology in the classroom and at a distance and for teacher, administrator, and technology staff professional development in qualifying schools, including the School for the Blind, the School for the Deaf, and the Department of Youth Services.

Earmarks up to \$1,691,701 in each fiscal year to contract with educational television to provide Ohio public schools with instructional resources and services. Specifies that priority be given to resources and services aligned with state academic standards. Specifies that such resources and services be based upon the advice and approval of eTech, based on a formula used by the former Ohio SchoolNet Commission unless a substitute formula is developed by eTech in consultation with Ohio's educational technology agencies and noncommercial education television stations.

ETCCD6 Telecommunity**Section: 283.40**

Specifies that SSR Fund 4W90 appropriation item 935630, Telecommunity, be used by eTech on a grant basis to eligible school districts to establish distance learning through interactive video technologies in school districts.

Executive**ETCCD7 Distance Learning****Section: 283.40**

Specifies that SSR Fund 4X10 appropriation item 935634, Distance Learning, be used to by eTech on a grant basis to eligible school districts to establish distance learning in the school districts.

ETCCD8 Gates Foundation Grants**Section: 283.40**

Specifies that SSR Fund 5T30 appropriation item 935607, Gates Foundation Grants, be used to provide professional development to school district principals, superintendents, and other administrative staff on the use of education technology.

Executive**BORCD78 Distance Learning Clearinghouse****R.C. 3333.81, 3333.82, 3333.87**

Expands the entities required to adopt rules for the distance learning clearinghouse to include the State Board of Education in addition to the Chancellor, and specifies the rules be adopted in consultation with the Director of the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education.

Eliminates a provision permitting the Chancellor to contract with another entity to administer the distance learning clearinghouse.

Requires the eTech Ohio Commission, in consultation with the Chancellor and the State Board of Education, to distribute information about the clearinghouse in an easily understandable format to students and parents.

Fiscal effect: Increase in administrative costs for eTech to the development and distribution of information about the clearinghouse.

BORCD79 Distance Learning Clearinghouse Location**R.C. 3333.81, Section 371.60.70**

Specifies that the distance learning clearinghouse is to be located at the Ohio Resource Center for Mathematics, Science, and Reading administered by the College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University. Requires the College to provide access to its online repository of educational content to offer courses from multiple providers at competitive prices for Ohio students.

Requires the College to review the content of courses, assess their alignment with Ohio academic standards, and publish information about the degree of alignment.

Requires the College to indicate a reasonable amount of academic credit to be earned for each course. Specifies that schools retain full authority to determine the actual credit awarded to their students.

Specifies that fees charged for courses are to be set by course providers and permits the College to retain a percentage of the fee.

Permits the College to establish policies to protect the proprietary interest or intellectual property of the educational content and courses in the clearinghouse. Permits the College to require end users to agree to the terms of any such policies

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before accessing the courses.

Fiscal effect: Increase in expenditures for the College offset by fee revenue collected by the College.

BORCD76 Distance Learning Clearinghouse Guidelines
R.C. 3333.81, 3333.82

Establishes the following guidelines for the distance learning clearinghouse:

- (1) Requires all Ohio students to have access to high quality distance learning courses at any point in their educational careers;
- (2) Requires all students to be able to customize their education using distance learning courses offered through the clearinghouse. Specifies that no eligible student is to be denied access to any course in the clearinghouse;
- (3) Permits students to take distance learning courses for all or any portion of their curriculum requirements. Permits students to use a combination of distance learning courses and traditional classroom courses;
- (4) Permits students to earn an unlimited number of academic credits through distance learning courses;
- (5) Permits students to take distance learning courses at any time of the calendar year;
- (6) Requires student advancement to be based on a demonstration of subject area competency instead of completion of any particular number of hours of instruction;

Fiscal effect: Presumably any additional costs related to the clearinghouse will be borne by the Board of Regents and, possibly, The Ohio State University.

BORCD77 Distance Learning Clearinghouse School Involvement
R.C. 3333.81, 3333.83, 3333.84, 3333.85, 3313.603

Replaces a requirement that distance learning students have course enrollment, grades, and credits approved by their district or school with a requirement that each district and school encourage and assist students to enroll in distance learning courses.

Requires that a district or school award a student credit for successful completion of a distance learning course. Requires that the credit awarded for the distance learning course be equal to the credit awarded for a similar course offered by the district or school.

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Specifies that districts and schools are not required to pay distance learning course fees.

Specifies that districts or schools cannot limit student access to or participation in clearinghouse courses, or refuse to recognize clearinghouse courses as fulfilling curriculum requirements, including high school diploma requirements.

Fiscal effect: Schools may be able to decrease expenditures by awarding credit for distance learning courses taken by their students instead of courses offered by the school. Presumably, schools may choose to pay course fees for their students, but they are not required to do so.

BORCD80**Digital Learning Task Force**

R.C. 3333.81, Section 371.60.80

Creates the Ohio Digital Learning Task Force to develop a strategy for the expansion of digital learning that enables students to customize their education, produces cost savings, and meets the needs of Ohio's economy. Provides a list of members for the Task Force.

Requires that members of the Task Force be appointed by September 30, 2011. Specifies that Task Force vacancies are to be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. Specifies that members serve without compensation.

Requires the Governor to designate the chairperson of the Task Force. Specifies that meetings of the Task Force are to be held at the call of the chairperson.

Provides a list of issues that the task force is to make recommendations on, including: (1) free, high quality digital content and instruction; (2) professional development for teachers and principals; (3) funding strategies; (4) student assessment and accountability; (5) digital learning infrastructure; (6) mobile learning; (7) the distance learning clearinghouse; (8) ways to align the resources and digital learning initiatives of state agencies and offices; (9) a request for proposals for a digital learning site, to replace the OhioLearns! Gateway; (10) methods of addressing future changes in technology and learning.

Requires the Task Force to issue a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by March 1, 2012. Specifies that, upon issuance of its report, the Task Force will cease to exist.

Fiscal effect: Probable increase in administrative costs relating to the establishment and operations of the task force.
