
FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION

- Requires a school district, instead of the Facilities Construction Commission as under prior law, to notify the Superintendent of Public Instruction if the district will exceed the limit on net indebtedness.
- Revises the water bottle filling station and drinking fountain requirements for classroom facility construction projects.

Notification of district net indebtedness

(R.C. 133.06)

The act requires a school district, instead of the Facilities Construction Commission as under prior law, to notify the Superintendent of Public Instruction if the district will exceed the limit on net indebtedness.

Generally, a school district may not incur net indebtedness exceeding 9% of its tax valuation. A district also may not submit to its voters the question of incurring new debt that will make the district's net indebtedness exceed 4% of its tax valuation, unless the state Superintendent consents to the submission.

School districts, however, may exceed those limits when necessary to raise the district share to participate in a school facilities project.

School water bottle filling stations

(R.C. 3318.038)

The act revises the recently enacted requirements for water bottle filling stations in a design plan for a state-assisted classroom facility project by:

1. Specifying that each building must have a minimum of one water bottle filling station or a "combination unit" on each floor or wing of the building and per 100 students;
2. Specifying that a water bottle filling station may be integrated into a drinking fountain as a "combination unit";
3. Requiring that each water bottle filling station be accessible to all people in compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act; and
4. Requiring a minimum of one water bottle filling station in or near each cafeteria, gymnasium, outdoor recreation space, or other high-traffic area.

The act retains the requirement that each design plan include a minimum of two water bottle filling stations in each building.

The act also generally requires each school to permit students and staff to carry and use water bottles that are made of durable material, have lids to prevent spills, and are filled exclusively with water. Exceptions to this requirement include the use of water bottles in

libraries, computer labs, science labs, and other locations where the district board or school governing body determines it is dangerous to have drinking water.

Finally, the act specifically authorizes each district board or school governing authority to issue disciplinary action for misuse of a water bottle.