



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Jeff Hobday

S.B. 329

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Bacon, Terhar

BILL SUMMARY

- Expands the definition of hazing to include any act to affirm, continue, or reinstate membership in or affiliation with any organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.
- Increases the criminal penalty for hazing to a first degree misdemeanor.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Criminal offense of hazing

The bill expands the definition of hazing to include "any act to affirm, continue, or reinstate membership in or affiliation with any student or other organization" that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Current law defines hazing as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.¹

The bill also increases the criminal penalty for hazing to a first degree misdemeanor, instead of a fourth degree misdemeanor under current law. A first degree misdemeanor is punishable by a jail term of up to 180 days or a fine of up to \$1,000.²

¹ R.C. 2903.31(A).

² R.C. 2903.31(C) and 2929.24(A); R.C. 2929.28(A)(2), not in the bill.

HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced

09-25-18

