



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments*

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Sub. H.B. 491

132nd General Assembly
(S. Education)

Counselor education

Allows the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board to temporarily approve a counseling education program created after January 1, 2018, that has not been accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Specifies that a degree from a Board-approved counseling education program satisfies the degree and training requirements to receive a professional clinical counselor's license or a professional counselor's license for the time period approved by the Board.

Requires the Board, if it elects to approve unaccredited programs, to adopt rules regarding the approval process, educational requirements, and time period during which completion of the program will satisfy licensure requirements.

School treasurer liability

Protects from liability for loss of public funds a school district or educational service center (ESC) treasurer whose official duties have been performed without negligence or wrongfulness.

Requires each teacher to file reports required by the State Board of Education, the school district, and the school district or ESC superintendent and a valid educator license with the district or ESC superintendent prior to receiving payment for services.

Requires a district or service center superintendent to provide a written statement to the school treasurer confirming the superintendent's receipt of the required reports and a valid educator license from each teacher.

* This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.

Protects a school treasurer or district or ESC superintendent from liability for loss of public funds for payments made to a teacher unless the loss results from the negligence or wrongfulness of that treasurer or superintendent.

Provision of specialized school resource officer training program

Removes the requirement that the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission must develop and conduct a basic school resource officer training course.

Permits any one of three entities to conduct the specialized school resource officer training required under continuing law, provided that the program the entity intends to teach has been approved by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission.

Removes the requirement that the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission must adopt rules for the approval of one entity to conduct the specialized training and instead requires the adoption of rules for approval of the program that will be taught by each of the three permitted entities.

Alternative high school graduation requirements

Extends the two alternative graduation pathways for public and chartered nonpublic high schools for two additional years to the classes of 2019 and 2020.

Modifies the requirements of the main alternative pathway for the class of 2020 by: (1) prohibiting the use of attendance in 12th grade as a condition to graduate, (2) requiring a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for courses taken during 11th and 12th grades (instead of just 12th grade), (3) requiring that a capstone project comply with guidance issued by the Department of Education, and (4) requiring that the student's completion of 120 hours of community service or employment comply with guidance developed by the Department in consultation with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation.

Requires both sets of guidance described above to be issued by May 31, 2019.

Recommendations for new permanent graduation requirements

Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the business community, to make recommendations to the General Assembly for new permanent graduation requirements and to present them to the House and Senate Education committees by April 1, 2019, for consideration for inclusion in the main operating budget for the 133rd General Assembly.

Policy on assignments missed because of a student's suspension

Requires school districts and schools to adopt a policy on completing and grading assignments missed as a result of a student's suspension that provides the student an opportunity to receive at least partial credit.