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S.B. 121
(1_133_0281-4)
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 121's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: In Senate Education

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Sykes and Kunze

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Education likely will incur minimal administrative costs to assist the State Board of Education in developing grades K-12 health education standards and communicating the standards adopted by the State Board to public schools.

Detailed Analysis

Under continuing law, school districts must instruct students in health education, including certain specified topics, as part of the district's curriculum in grades K-12. In order to graduate, public and chartered nonpublic high school students must successfully complete one-half unit of health education.¹ Current law prohibits the State Board of Education from adopting or revising any standards or curriculum in the area of health unless the standards, curriculum, or revisions are approved by both houses of the General Assembly through a concurrent resolution. In addition, current law requires both the House and Senate education committees to conduct at least one public hearing on the standards, curriculum, or revisions prior to voting on the concurrent resolution. Ohio currently does not have health education standards since no such resolution has been adopted since the current law restriction was enacted in 2001.

The bill requires the adoption of a resolution and public hearings only when adopting or revising standards or curricula regarding sexual education and requires the State Board to develop and adopt health education standards for grades K-12 by July 1, 2021. The methodology used in developing the standards must be based on the methodology the State

¹ One-half unit generally means at least 60 hours of course instruction.

Board uses for developing other academic content standards. The bill also requires the State Board to provide the standards to all public schools.

The bill increases the administrative costs of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to assist the State Board in developing health education standards. These costs are likely to be minimal. ODE often uses volunteers that serve on educator writing teams and a standards advisory committee to develop or revise academic content standards. ODE reimburses the volunteers for travel expenses. Any new costs to develop the standards may be mitigated if the State Board relies to some extent on the National Health Education Standards (NHES). The NHES were developed in 1995 and revised in 2007 by the Joint Committee on National Health Education Standards, which included the American Public Health Association, the American School Health Association, and the Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Educators. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website, the NHES have been used as a framework for the adoption of standards by most states.² In FY 2021, GRF funding of \$4.5 million is specifically appropriated to ODE to develop and communicate to school districts academic content standards and curriculum models.

Each school district and community or STEM school is permitted, but not required, to use the health education standards the State Board adopts. Districts and schools that opt to do so may incur some minimal costs to update curriculum. The bill also changes the term "venereal disease education" to "sexual education" in the law prescribing the subjects that a school's curriculum must cover. However, the bill does not specify an alternate definition for "sexual education" from the previous one for "venereal disease education," nor does it provide any new requirements. Thus, this change appears to have little, if any, fiscal effect.

SB0121S1/zg

² "National Health Education Standards," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, March 27, 2019, <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/sher/standards/index.htm>.