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S.B. 7
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Johnson

Jessica Sutton, Research Analyst

SUMMARY

- Requires each public school and permits each chartered nonpublic school to annually provide instruction to students in grades K-12 on the harmful effects of short-term or chronic substance use.
- Requires a school district's instruction in the harmful effects of and legal restrictions against the use of drugs of abuse to include instruction regarding marijuana, opioids, and opiates.
- Requires school districts to include bullying and hazing in its health education curriculum.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to collaborate with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to review available resources and develop a list of evidence-based curricula, materials, programs, and instructional strategies related to the required health curriculum and substance use instruction.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to conduct a survey on public school compliance with the required health curriculum and substance use instruction.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Instruction on the harmful effects of substance use

The bill requires each school district, community school, STEM school, and college-preparatory boarding school to annually provide instruction to students in grades K-12 about how short-term or chronic substance use to alter one's mood is harmful to an individual's health. Each district and school also must do all of the following with regard to the instruction:

- Determine the manner in which the instruction is provided to students;
- Ensure the instruction is age and developmentally appropriate;

- Conform the instruction to prevention best-practice frameworks;
- Focus the instruction on addressing changes in knowledge, attitude, and skills as a child develops.¹

For the purposes of the instruction, “substance use” includes the use of marijuana, alcoholic beverages, opioids, opiates, and tobacco, including electronic smoking devices, and any substance derived from a source external to the human body that is not legally permitted or authorized for use without a prescription.²

The bill permits a chartered nonpublic school to provide this instruction in the same manner.³

Health curriculum

Instruction on drugs of abuse, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco

Under the bill, “drugs of abuse” specifically includes marijuana, opioids, and opiates for the purposes of the continuing law requirement that, as part of a school district’s health curriculum, the school district provides instruction in the harmful effects of and legal restrictions against the use of drugs of abuse, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco, including electronic smoking devices.⁴

Instruction on bullying and hazing

The bill includes instruction in bullying and hazing as part of a school district’s health curriculum requirements.⁵

Department of Education and Workforce’s list of resources

The bill requires the Department of Education and Workforce to collaborate with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to review available resources and develop a list of evidence-based curricula, materials, programs, and instructional strategies related to the required health curriculum and substance use instruction that districts or schools may use. The Department also must highlight evidence-based resources on the list and periodically review and update it.⁶

Survey on health curriculum compliance

The bill modifies the current law requirement that school districts and schools report to the Department of Education and Workforce on prevention-focused programs, services, and

¹ R.C. 3313.6031, 3314.0311, 3326.092, and 3328.60.

² R.C. 3313.6031(A).

³ R.C. 3301.165.

⁴ R.C. 3313.60(A)(5)(b).

⁵ R.C. 3313.60(A)(5)(k).

⁶ R.C. 3301.0722.

supports aimed at increasing student awareness of the dangers and consequences of substance abuse, suicide, bullying, and other harmful behaviors.

Under the bill, districts and schools are required to report this information on an annual survey conducted by the Department, rather than in a manner prescribed by the Department as under current law. The survey must also include a description of the ways in which the district or school is complying with the bill's requirement to provide instruction on the harmful effects of substance use to alter one's mood.

School districts specifically also must report on the ways in which the district is complying with continuing law requirements to provide instruction on (1) the harmful effects of and legal restrictions against the use of drugs of abuse, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco and (2) prescription opioid abuse prevention.

The bill permits chartered nonpublic schools to elect to participate in the Department's annual survey.

The bill requires the Department to analyze the substance abuse case data and the information on the programs, services, and supports collected in the survey each year to determine the overall effectiveness of these programs, services, and supports at preventing substance abuse cases over time and identify best practices for prevention education.⁷

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-22-25
Reported, S. Education	04-09-25
Passed Senate (33-0)	04-09-25

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⁷ R.C. 3313.6024. See also R.C. 3313.60(A)(5)(b) and (g).