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H.B. 57
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 57's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate Education

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Jarrells and Williams

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- Administrative costs may minimally increase for school districts and other public schools that have elected to keep a supply of an overdose reversal drug for an emergency situation to (1) adopt and implement a policy on the maintenance and use of overdose reversal drugs and (2) comply with certain reporting requirements.
- Administrative costs may minimally increase for the Department of Education and Workforce and the Department of Health to develop a model policy regarding the maintenance and use of a supply of overdose reversal drugs.
- Administrative costs may minimally increase for school districts that choose to modify policies on student attendance in released time courses in religious instruction to set higher time limits on student attendance in those courses than is allowed under current law.

Detailed Analysis

School policy on overdose reversal drugs

Continuing law establishes requirements for individuals or government entities that purchase, possess, distribute, dispense, furnish, sell, or otherwise handle overdose reversal drugs (such as naloxone, also known as NARCAN), including rules for storage and administration. The bill requires public and nonpublic schools that choose to maintain a supply of overdose reversal drugs for emergencies under continuing law to adopt and implement a policy for maintaining the supply and use of the drug in each school building. The policy required by the bill must include (1) a requirement that each school comply with continuing law, (2) the amount of the supply to be maintained at each school, (3) a requirement that each school's supply be stored in a secure location that is easily accessible to school employees or contractors, and (4) a description of any

training regarding the supply's maintenance and drug's use that school employees or contractors may be required to complete. The bill also requires the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), in consultation with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), to, by August 1, 2026, develop a model policy regarding the maintenance and use of a supply of overdose reversal drugs, which school districts may adopt to fulfill the bill's requirements.

The bill requires a district or school superintendent to report the use of an overdose reversal drug to the district board or school governing authority and the parent or guardian of the student to whom the drug was administered. The superintendent must annually report the district or school's use of overdose reversal drugs in emergency situations to DEW. The bill also specifically permits a district or school to accept monetary donations from any person to purchase overdose reversal drugs. A district board or school must use the donations only for that purpose and must track the expenditure of donated funds.

School districts and other public schools that opt to maintain overdose reversal drugs may incur minimal administrative costs to establish a policy or adopt the model policy and comply with the bill's reporting requirements. DEW and ODH may incur minimal administrative costs to develop the model policy.

The bill also specifically permits a district or school to accept monetary donations to purchase the overdose reversal drugs. School districts and other public schools appear to be able to do so under continuing law under certain conditions since naloxone is now available to purchase in nasal spray form without a prescription. However, the bill's provision may lead to additional donations, and lower district and school costs, if it increases awareness of the option.

Released time religious instruction

Under current law, school districts must adopt a policy that permits students to attend released time religious instruction courses for at least one period per week, with excused attendance capped at two periods per week for elementary and middle school students, and the equivalent of two units of credit per week for high school students. The bill permits a school district board of education to set higher time limits for student attendance in such courses in the district's policy. Districts that choose to modify their policies may incur minimal administrative costs to do so.

Continuing law prohibits public funds from being expended or public school personnel from being involved in providing the religious instruction. In addition, continuing law requires the entity sponsoring the released time course in religious instruction, the student's parents or guardians, or the student to provide transportation to and from the place of instruction and the sponsoring entity to assume liability for the student and maintain attendance records. The student must also assume responsibility for any missed schoolwork.

The bill also prohibits courts from awarding monetary damages for a claim brought under or arising out of the law regarding released time religious instruction for any alleged violations occurring from September 30, 2025, to the bill's effective date. The bill clarifies that this provision does not create a private right of action.