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Office

H.B. 304
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 304's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Young and M. Miller

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Ryan Brown, Senior Budget Analyst

Highlights

- The bill will increase administrative workload for school districts and other public schools to (1) adjust instructional schedules and coordinate facility use due to expanded recess periods and (2) for those that opt to allow students to replace the high school physical education course requirement with participation in other athletic activities, to revise policies and review additional waiver requests.

Detailed Analysis

Recess requirement

The bill requires school districts and other public schools to provide at least 30 minutes of recess in both the morning and afternoon for students in grades K-8. However, districts and schools are not required to offer recess on days when a student attends a physical education class. Each 30-minute recess period counts toward the minimum instructional hours required for the school year. Under current law, districts are not obligated to provide recess, although up to 15 minutes each of morning and afternoon recess counts toward district minimum instructional hours for students in grades K-6. The bill does not increase the minimum number of hours schools must be open for instruction.

In response to the bill, districts and schools will need to adjust instructional hours to accommodate the additional recess time. According to the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA), districts do not anticipate any direct costs resulting from this change. However, the bill likely will increase administrative workload related to revising class schedules and handling potential logistical challenges for students who previously did not receive recess. These challenges could include identifying suitable spaces for recess and coordinating their use to avoid conflicts with other school activities.

Club sports and other athletic activities as physical education

Continuing law requires high school students to complete a one-half unit course in physical education (equivalent to 120 hours of course instruction) in order to graduate. Current law allows public and chartered nonpublic schools to adopt policies permitting high school students to waive the physical education course requirement by substituting two seasons of participation in interscholastic athletics, marching band, or show choir. The bill expands this option to include two seasons of participation in club sports or 120 hours of participation in “other athletic activities,” defined as sports or physical activities taught by an instructor outside of school. Districts and schools that opt to permit these substitutions may experience additional administrative workload to revise policies and review additional requests from students seeking a waiver.