



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments*

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Sub. H.B. 410

131st General Assembly
(S. Education)

The amendments adopted by the Senate committee make the following changes to the bill:

Exemption for school districts with low chronic absenteeism

Provides an exemption from the requirement to assign habitually truant students to an absence intervention team for a school district with a chronic absenteeism percentage that is less than 10%.

Out-of-school suspensions

Permits a school district board of education to allow a student to complete any classroom assignments missed because of a suspension.

Prohibits the superintendent of a school district from applying a suspension to the following school year and, instead, permits the superintendent to require the pupil to participate in a community service program or other alternative consequence for a number of hours equal to the remaining part of the period of the suspension during the summer break.

Multidisciplinary truancy teams; pilot program

Requires the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council to establish a pilot program for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years only that creates a multidisciplinary truancy team approach, in which school districts may participate in lieu of some of the requirements related to the bill's absence intervention plan process.

Requires a school district that wishes to participate in the pilot program to submit an application to the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and partner with at least one of the following entities: (1) the county family and children first council for the county in which the district is located, (2) the board of county

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

commissioners of the county in which the district is located, (3) the mayor of the municipal corporation with the largest population in which the school district is situated, (4) the executive director of a non-profit agency that provides services to children and families, or (5) the educational service center with which the school district has a contract for services.

Requires each pilot program application to contain signatures from representatives of the school district and each entity who partners with the school district and outline how the school district tracks and monitors attendance and late arrivals; with a specific emphasis on how often attendance is taken in any one school day.

Provides that any participating district or educational service center and any school located in a participating district is considered to have satisfied the requirements related to the creation and implementation of an absence intervention team, regardless of whether it has done so but requires those entities to comply with all other provisions of the bill not specifically excluded.

Requires each multidisciplinary truancy team to collect and submit, in the form and manner prescribed by the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council, several types of data for children who are not attending school.

Requires the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet council to collect data on the results of the pilot program.

Requires the Joint Education Oversight Committee, working in consultation with the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council, submit to the General Assembly a detailed analysis of the pilot program, including recommendations on whether to implement the pilot program on a statewide basis in place of the bill's absence intervention plan process.

Specifies that under the bill, each member of a multidisciplinary truancy team is considered a "school official" with a legitimate educational interest in the amelioration of the student's truancy for purposes of compliance with and treatment under state law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

Updated policy on zero tolerance

Requires a school district to establish an updated policy of zero tolerance that provides tiered responses for violent and disruptive behavior based upon the nature and severity of the behavior.

Requires the updated policy of zero tolerance to provide that to the extent practicable out-of-school suspensions and expulsions may be imposed only when the student's physical presence poses a continuing physical danger to the health and safety of others.

Date changes

Changes the effective date of the bill's prohibition against any public school suspending, expelling, or removing a student from school solely on the basis of the student's unexcused absences from July 1, 2016, to July 1, 2017.

Requires each absence intervention plan to state that the attendance officer must file a complaint not later than "61 days" after the date the plan was "implemented," rather than not later than "60 days" after the date the plan was "developed."