

Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Office of Research and Drafting Legislative Budget Office



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Highlights

The Ohio Department of Education may incur minimal administrative costs to assist the State Board of Education in (1) reviewing existing national health education standards and potentially developing state standards based on the national standards and (2) communicating the health education standards adopted by the State Board to public schools.

Detailed Analysis

Under continuing law, school districts must instruct students in health education, including in 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.

The bill repeals both of those provisions and requires the State Board to adopt health education standards by July 1, 2020, for instruction in grades K-12 that are either (1) the most recent health education standards developed by the American Association for Health Education (AAHE) or (2) health education standards developed by the State Board that are based on the

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

national standards developed by AAHE (the most recent health education standards are the "National Health Education Standards," as revised in 2007).² The bill also requires the State Board to provide the standards to all public schools.

The bill's provisions may increase the administrative costs of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to assist the State Board in (1) reviewing the national standards and potentially developing state standards based on the national standards and (2) communicating the standards adopted by the State Board to public schools. However, any new costs are likely minimal since the bill requires adoption of standards that are either the same as or based on existing standards. For FY 2019, \$3.8 million in GRF funding is specifically appropriated to ODE to develop and communicate to school districts academic content standards and curriculum models. The bill permits but does not require public schools to use the State Board's health education standards. Public schools that choose to do so may incur minimal costs to update curriculum.

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² These standards and associated performance indicators are available online on the Centers for Disease Control website at https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/sher/standards/index.htm.