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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 226
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Williams

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SUMMARY

- Requires school districts to provide transportation to and from school for high school students.
- Reverses the suspension of the transportation formula for FYs 2020 and 2021 for a flat funding formula and, instead provides for payments under permanent law.
- Makes an appropriation.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Required transportation for high school students

The bill requires school districts to provide transportation to and from school for high school students who live more than two miles from their resident district school. Current law requires districts to transport students in grades K-8. Under current law, districts may, but are not required to, transport high school students. Under the bill, school districts must transport resident high school students who attend community schools, STEM schools, and chartered nonpublic schools as well, so long as the distance from those schools and the duration of transportation time meets the standards of current law.¹

Current law requires school districts to provide transportation to the district's students as well as to certain community school students and nonpublic students who reside in the district. However, a district need not provide any transportation or payment in lieu of it for a nonpublic, STEM, or community school student, if the direct drive time by school bus is more than 30 minutes.

¹ R.C. 3327.01.

While these state transportation requirements apply only to students in grades K-8 who live more than two miles from the school, the state also funds transportation service for high school students and for students who live between one and two miles from the school.

For more information, about school transportation requirements, please see the LSC *Members Brief*, volume 133, issue 14, at <https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/documents/reference/current/membersonlybriefs/133%20Transportation%20of%20Students.pdf>.

Transportation funding

The bill reverses the flat funding for student transportation to school districts as prescribed in H.B. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly, the main operating budget act, and instead returns to the transportation formula payments under law prior to the passage of that act. Under the bill, payments for districts are calculated by multiplying the greater of the product of the statewide transportation cost per student by the district's qualifying ridership in the current fiscal year or the product of the statewide transportation cost per mile by the district's total number of miles driven for school bus service in the current fiscal year by the greater of 25% or the district's state share index.²

Appropriation

The bill appropriates \$61 million in FY 2020 and \$81 million in FY 2021 for GRF line item 200502, Pupil Transportation.³

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-21-19

S0226-I-133/ks

² R.C. 3317.0212; Sections 265.10, 265.150, 265.210, 265.215, and 265.220 of H.B. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly.

³ Section 265.10 of H.B. 166.