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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
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Office

## Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

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

### H.B. 123 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

#### Senate Education

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### Anonymous reporting programs

Requires each school district and other public schools to either register with the SaferOH tip line operated by the Department of Public Safety or enter into an agreement with an anonymous reporting program of the district or school's choice, rather than the sole requirement to "contract" with an anonymous reporting program of the district or school's choice as under the House version.

Makes conforming changes to the bill's provision to accommodate the inclusion of the SaferOH tip line as an option for districts and schools.

### School threat assessments

Adds a requirement that the Department of Public Safety use the evidence-based threat assessment processes or best practice threat assessment guidelines created by the National Threat Assessment Center when developing the model threat assessment plan required by the bill.

### School threat assessment teams

Adds an exemption for individuals already serving on a school safety team who have completed a training program in the preceding year, that is later approved by the Department of Public Safety, from completing a training program for another two years.

Adds a provision for a qualified immunity in a civil action for money damages for a school, school district, the members of a district board or school governing authority, or a district's or school's employees, including school threat assessment team members.

### Training in suicide awareness and prevention and social inclusion

Removes the specification that the approved list for instruction in suicide awareness and prevention and violence prevention comprise of at least three programs but maintains that at least one option on the approved list be free or of no cost to schools.

In addition to the requirements of the House version, specifies that approved training programs must include instruction in the following:

1. How to identify observable warning signs and signals of individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others;
2. The importance of taking threats seriously and seeking help; and
3. How students can report dangerous, violent, threatening, harmful, or potentially harmful activity.

Removes the specification that the approved list for instruction in social inclusion comprise of at least three programs but maintains that at least one option on the approved list be free or of no cost to schools.

Adds authority for schools to use student assemblies, digital learning, and homework to satisfy the bill's instruction requirements for suicide awareness and prevention and social inclusion.

Adds a provision for a parent or guardian to submit a written request that their student be excused from instruction in suicide awareness and prevention, safety training, and violence prevention or in social inclusion.

## **School safety training grants**

Specifies that educational service centers are eligible to receive grants for school safety and school climate programs and training under existing law.

Encourages the Attorney General and the Department of Public Safety (in addition to the Department of Education as under the House version) to apply for any federal or other funding available for the purposes of increasing school safety to offset any costs associated with implementing the bill's provisions.

## **Emergency management plans**

Transfers to the Director of Public Safety (from the State Board of Education as under current law) the responsibility to adopt rules pertaining to comprehensive school emergency management plans.

Requires each school building administrator to incorporate both (1) a school threat assessment plan and (2) a protocol for the building's threat assessment team into the building's existing emergency management plan.

## **Student-led violence prevention clubs**

Permits, rather than requires as under the House version, each school district and other public schools to designate a student-led violence prevention club for each school building serving grades 6-12.

## **Pilot funding for dropout recovery e-schools**

For FY 2021, establishes a pilot program to provide additional per-pupil funding for certain internet- or computer-based community school (e-schools) operating dropout

prevention and recovery programs for students in grades 8-12 based on student participation and course completion.

Specifies that, to be eligible for the program, an e-school must not have a for-profit operator and must have received a rating of “exceeds standards” on the combined graduation component of the school’s most recent report card.

Permits the Department to (1) require certain participating e-schools to establish a plan to improve the reporting of enrollment and (2) create a debt reduction plan for each e-school that chooses to participate in the pilot program.

Requires certain participating e-schools to provide to the Department a meaningful plan for increasing student engagement and all participating e-schools to implement programming or protocol which documents enrollment and participation in learning opportunities.

Requires the Department to issue a report upon completion of the pilot program by December 31, 2021.

Earmarks an appropriation for the pilot program.

Declares an emergency for the bill’s provisions regarding the pilot program.