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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

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

H.B. 409 of the 133rd General Assembly

Senate Education

Holly Cantrell Gilman, Attorney

Attendance taking and absence intervention for all remote learners

Provides that e-schools (that are not dropout prevention and recovery schools), school districts and STEM schools must comply with the same standards with respect to calculation of absences as prescribed under the bill for e-schools (that are not dropout prevention and recovery schools), and the absence intervention and responsibilities related to truancy under continuing law for remote learning students.

Specifies that any school district or school subject to the bill's provisions must use the remote learning attendance calculation procedures when satisfying compulsory education and absence intervention requirements.

Removes the bill's provisions related to disenrollment of e-school students as a consequence for failure to participate in instructional activities.

Educational requirements of substitute teachers

For the 2020-2021 school year only, permits a public or chartered nonpublic school to employ a substitute teacher according to the school's own educational requirements, as long as all other requirements and procedures of statutory law and administrative rules are satisfied.

Declares this amendment to be an emergency.

Retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee

Extends through the 2020-2021 school year the exemption for public and chartered nonpublic schools from retaining a student under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee based solely on the student's academic performance in reading, unless the student's principal and reading teacher determine the student is not reading at grade level and is not prepared for fourth grade.

Declares this amendment to be an emergency.

Authority of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adjust deadlines

For the 2020-2021 school year, permits the Superintendent of Public instruction to adjust deadlines for teacher evaluations, intent to reemploy notifications, school safety drills and emergency management tests, requirements related to filling district board vacancies, updating teacher evaluation policies, and gifted student screening requirements.

Specifies that the state Superintendent's authority to adjust deadlines does not apply to application window deadlines for any state scholarship program.

Declares this amendment to be an emergency.

State report card ratings and safe harbor

Prohibits the Department of Education from issuing state report card ratings and rankings of school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and individual school buildings for the 2020-2021 school year.

Requires the Department to report any data it has regarding the performance of districts and buildings for the 2020-2021 school year by September 15, 2021.

Establishes a safe harbor from penalties and sanctions for school districts and schools based on the state report card grades for the 2020-2021 school year, in which only ratings from previous and subsequent years are considered.

Explicitly states that the safe harbor does not affect the awarding of performance-based Educational Choice Scholarships for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years (which does not rely on performance index rankings for the 2020-2021 school year).

Establishes a safe harbor from penalties and sanctions for community school sponsors based on the community school sponsor ratings for the 2020-2021 school year, in which only ratings from previous and subsequent years are considered.

Declares this amendment to be an emergency.