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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 214
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 214's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Holmes

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- School districts and other public schools may incur minimal costs to develop and implement the policies on staff member professional duties required by the bill and to make certain policies, guidelines, and training materials publicly available.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires school district boards of education and governing authorities of community and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) schools to adopt a policy that directs professional staff to maintain high standards in their professional relationships and duties. The policy must prohibit the district or school from (1) compelling affirmations or opinions about specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, political principles, ideology, or social action, and (2) using statements of commitment to such affirmations or opinions to evaluate students, applicants for employment, or academic progression or benefits. School districts and other public schools may incur some minimal costs to create and maintain this policy, to the extent they do not have them already.

The bill may codify current practices, although the extent is unclear. According to the Ohio School Boards Association's (OSBA) code of ethics, school board members are to cooperate with other members and administrators to establish a system of regular and impartial evaluations of all staff and to avoid any conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof.¹ Additionally, educators

¹ See the OSBA [Code of Ethics](#), which is accessible through a keyword search of "code of ethics" on the OSBA website: ohioschoolboards.org.

must abide by the Licensure Code of Professional Conduct, which requires educators to behave professionally and maintain professional relationships with students.²

The bill also requires each school district and school make publicly available all policies, guidelines, and training materials for students, educators, and staff on all matters regarding specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, political principles, ideology, or social actions. The administrative costs of school districts and other public schools may increase to make this information available to the public.

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² See the State Board of Education's [Licensure Code of Professional Conduct \(PDF\)](#), which is accessible by conducting a keyword "Professional Conduct" search on the Department of Education and Workforce website: education.ohio.gov.