



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

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Am. Sub. S.B. 8

132nd General Assembly

(As Reported by H. Education and Career Readiness)

Sens. Gardner and Terhar, Beagle, Eklund, Hite, Brown, Manning, Oelslager, Uecker, Bacon, Balderson, Dolan, Hackett, Hoagland, Hottinger, Huffman, Kunze, LaRose, Lehner, Obhof, O'Brien, Peterson, Schiavoni, Sykes, Tavares, Thomas, Wilson, Yuko

Reps. Gavarone, Hambley

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes the 1:1 School Facilities Option Program as an alternative to assist certain school districts in constructing, acquiring, reconstructing, or making additions or repairs to any feature of a classroom facility.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

1:1 School Facilities Option Program

The bill establishes the 1:1 School Facilities Option Program. Under the bill's program, the School Facilities Commission must provide funding to assist eligible school districts in constructing, acquiring, reconstructing, or making additions or repairs to any feature of a classroom facility that meets the Commission's design standards in lieu of a larger project under the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP) or Vocational School Facilities Assistance Program (VFAP) (see "**Background**" below). A district may avail itself of the bill's program only if it has not entered into an agreement for any state-assisted classroom facilities project as of the bill's effective date, except for a project under the Emergency Assistance Program. In the case of city, exempted village, or local school districts, the bill explicitly states that any district that received partial assistance under CFAP prior to May 20, 1997, is not eligible for the bill's program.

A district may participate in the bill's program only when it becomes eligible for assistance under CFAP or VFAP, in accordance with the annual wealth percentile rankings of districts under continuing law.¹

The bill specifies that a district that receives assistance under the bill's program is not eligible for subsequent assistance under either CFAP or VFAP until the expiration of 20 years after the date the district enters into an agreement under the program. A similar provision of continuing law applies to districts that enter into CFAP or VFAP agreements.²

Assessment of eligible districts

A school district that wants to take advantage of the bill's program must request an assessment from the Commission. Based on the results of that assessment, the Commission must determine the following:

- (1) The scope of the entire project;
- (2) The basic project cost of the school district's classroom facilities needs; and
- (3) The state's portion of the total project if the school district were to receive assistance under CFAP or VFAP.³

Amount of funding and matching share

Under the bill's program, a district may receive state funds in an amount of up to the greater of \$1 million or 10% of the state's share of the total project cost, as determined by the Commission's assessment. However, a district may choose to receive less than the maximum amount. The district must match the amount of state funds it receives on a one-to-one basis. The bill specifies that a district may generate funds for that match using any lawful manner.⁴

Program administration

The bill requires the Commission to adopt guidelines and procedures for the administration of the bill's program, including:

¹ R.C. 3318.39(A). See R.C.3318.011 and 3318.42, neither in the bill.

² R.C. 3318.39(D). See R.C. 3318.04(B) and 3318.40(B)(2), neither in the bill.

³ R.C. 3318.39(B)(1).

⁴ R.C. 3318.39(B)(2) and (3).



--A requirement that, in order to participate in the program, the district's board of education must approve participation by an affirmative vote of not less than four-fifths of the board's full membership;

--The application process for districts; and

--A requirement that, in order to participate in the program, the district must provide a share that is at least equal to the amount of the state assistance provided under the program.⁵

Background

The Commission administers several programs that provide state assistance to school districts and other public schools in constructing classroom facilities. The main program, the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program, is designed to provide each city, exempted village, and local school district with partial funding to address all of the district's classroom facilities needs. It is a graduated, cost-sharing program where a district's portion of the total cost of the project and priority for funding are based on the district's relative wealth. Districts are ranked by wealth into percentiles. The poorest districts are served first and receive a greater amount of state assistance than wealthier districts will receive when it is their turn to be served based on their respective wealth percentile.⁶ Joint vocational school districts (JVSDs) are served by a similar program, the Vocational School Facilities Assistance Program.⁷

In each case, the scope of a district's project is negotiated between the Commission and the district in accordance with the district's needs and the design specifications adopted by the Commission. The Commission has adopted a design manual for city, exempted village, and local school districts and a separate one for JVSDs.

The Emergency Assistance Program provides funding for districts to address reconstruction, renovation, or repair of facilities made necessary due to natural disasters ("acts of God").⁸

⁵ R.C. 3318.39(C).

⁶ R.C. 3318.01 through 3318.20, none in the bill.

⁷ R.C. 3318.40 through 3318.45, none in the bill.

⁸ R.C. 3318.351, not in the bill.



HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	01-31-17
Reported, S. Education	05-17-17
Passed Senate (33-0)	05-17-17
Reported, H. Education & Career Readiness	06-21-17

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