



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 532
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Reps. Brinkman and Kelly

Allison Schoeppner, Research Analyst

SUMMARY

- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt standards for mental health education.
- Exempts mental health education standards from the requirement for adoption of a concurrent resolution by the General Assembly prior to adopting or revising standards and curriculum for health education.
- Permits school districts to utilize standards adopted by the State Board and to include mental health education in their curriculum.
- Makes an appropriation.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Mental health education standards

The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt mental health education standards for grades pre-K-12 no later than one year after the bill's effective date. It specifies that the standards may address mental well-being, depression, anxiety, drug and alcohol abuse, bullying and harassment, trauma, and suicide. But it does not limit the standards to those topics.¹

The bill further exempts the adoption of mental health education standards from the process otherwise required under continuing law when adopting or revising standards and curriculum for health education. That process prescribes the passage of a concurrent resolution by both houses of the General Assembly before the State Board may add or revise any standards or curriculum for health education. Prior to voting on the adoption of the concurrent

¹ R.C. 3301.0718(B).

resolution, the standing committee of each house must hold at least one public hearing.² The bill does not affect this requirement for other health education standards the State Board may adopt.

Health education instruction

The bill expressly states that each district and school may choose to utilize the mental health education standards adopted by the State Board and that instruction in mental health may be included as part of a district or school's health instruction curriculum.³

Under continuing law, district boards of education are required to prescribe curriculum standards for all schools under their control; however, certain topics are prescribed. Specifically for health education, instruction must include the following:⁴

1. The nutritive value of food; including natural and organically produced foods, the relation of nutrition to health and the use and effects of food additives;
2. The harmful effects of and legal restrictions against the use of drugs of abuse, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco;
3. Venereal disease education, except that upon written request of the student's parent or guardian, a student shall be excused from taking such instruction;
4. In grades K-6, instruction in personal safety and assault prevention, except that upon written request of the student's parent or guardian, a student shall be excused from taking such instruction;
5. In grades 7-12, age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention education, which shall include instruction in recognizing dating violence warning signs and characteristics of healthy relationships;
6. Prescription opioid abuse prevention, with an emphasis on the prescription drug epidemic and the connection between prescription opioid abuse and addiction to other drugs, such as heroin; and
7. The process of making an anatomical gift, with an emphasis on the life-saving and life-enhancing effects of organ and tissue donation.

Funding for development of standards and grants to districts

The bill appropriates \$300,000 in FY 2020 and earmarks up to \$150,000 of that appropriation for use by the Department of Education to develop the mental health education

² R.C. 3301.0718(A) and (B).

³ R.C. 3301.0718(B) and 3313.60(A)(5)(g).

⁴ R.C. 3313.60(A)(5).

standards required by the bill. It earmarks up to another \$150,000 for noncompetitive grants to school districts to assist them in implementing mental health education into their curriculum.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-03-20

]

H0532-I-133/ar

⁵ Sections 265.10 and 265.80 of H.B. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly.