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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 216  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Lightbody and Williams

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### SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Education to develop a request for an investigation process for a school's compliance with the district's anti-harassment, intimidation, and bullying policy.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Investigation of compliance – anti-bullying policies

The bill requires the Department of Education<sup>1</sup> to develop a process by which a student or a student's parent or guardian may request an investigation by the Department of the student's school's compliance with its policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, and bullying established by the school district under continuing law.<sup>2</sup>

Upon receiving a request for an investigation, the Department must conduct an investigation in accordance with procedures developed by the Department. As part of this investigation, the Department must provide the student and the school an opportunity for a hearing. If the Department determines that the school has not complied with its policy, it must order the school to comply within a specified time and manner.

Under current law, school district boards of education are required to establish a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying.<sup>3</sup> The policy must be developed in consultation

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<sup>1</sup> H.B. 216 was introduced prior to the passage of H.B. 33 of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. That act transferred most of the powers of the Department and the State Board of Education to the Department of Education and Workforce. Consideration should be given to changing references to the "Department of Education" in H.B. 216 to the "Department of Education and Workforce."

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3313.666(I).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3313.666(B).

with parents, school employees, school volunteers, students, and community members but current law prescribes certain requirements for inclusion in each policy related to reporting protocol for school personnel, parental notification, and documentation and disciplinary procedures. Additionally, each policy must appear in any student handbooks and other publications that set forth comprehensive rules, procedures, and standards of conduct for school and students in the district.

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	06-20-23

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