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H.B. 602
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Fowler Arthur

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SUMMARY

- Defines home education learning pod.
- Exempts home education learning pods from child care regulations.
- Prohibits a county or township from restricting or limiting the location of home education learning pods within any district/zone in the county or township.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Home education learning pods

The bill defines a home education learning pod as a voluntary association of parents who direct their children's education through home education. Parents participating in a pod choose to group their children together in a home or other location at various times. This may include hours when home education is not provided. The pod includes only the parents' children who are receiving home education, except that it also may include siblings or other children under the care of the parents in the pod, regardless of age. The pod is required to have at least one parent of any of the children participating in the pod on the premises while the pod is meeting.¹ Under current law, such arrangements could be considered child care and may be subject to licensure and regulation as a child care center or family child care home. The bill exempts home education learning pods from those requirements.²

¹ R.C. 5104.01(V).

² R.C. 5104.02.

Zoning

The bill prohibits a county or township from restricting or limiting the location of home education learning pods within any district/zone in the county or township. Counties and townships would still have the authority to require a building or residence used by a pod to comply with zoning requirements that would otherwise apply to the building or residence if it was not associated with or used by a pod.³

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-20-24

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³ R.C. 303.215 and 519.215.