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Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Johnson

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SUMMARY

- Requires each public and chartered nonpublic school to annually provide instruction to students in grades K-12 on the harmful effects of short-term or chronic substance use.
- Requires a school district's instruction in the harmful effects of and legal restrictions against the use of drugs of abuse to include instruction regarding marijuana.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to collaborate with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to review available resources and develop a list of evidence-based curricula, materials, programs, and instructional strategies related to the required health curriculum and substance use instruction.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to conduct a survey on public school compliance with the required health curriculum and substance use instruction.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Instruction on the harmful effects of substance use

The bill requires each city, local, and exempted village school district, community school, STEM school, college-preparatory boarding school, and chartered nonpublic school to annually provide instruction to students in grades K-12 about how short-term or chronic substance use to alter one's mood is harmful to an individual's health. Each district and school also must do all of the following with regard to the instruction:

- Determine the manner in which the instruction is provided to students;
- Ensure the instruction is age and developmentally appropriate;
- Conform the instruction to prevention best-practice frameworks;

- Focus the instruction on addressing changes in knowledge, attitude, and skills as a child develops.¹

For the purposes of the instruction, “substance use” includes the use of marijuana, alcoholic beverages, opioids, and tobacco, including electronic smoking devices, and any substance derived from a source external to the human body that is not legally permitted or authorized for use without a prescription.²

Instruction on drugs of abuse, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco

Under the bill, “drugs of abuse” specifically includes marijuana for the purposes of the continuing law requirement that, as part of a school district’s health curriculum, the district provides instruction in the harmful effects of and legal restrictions against the use of drugs of abuse, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco, including electronic smoking devices.³

Department of Education and Workforce’s list of resources

The bill requires the Department of Education and Workforce to collaborate with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to review available resources and develop a list of evidence-based curricula, materials, programs, and instructional strategies related to the required health curriculum and substance use instruction that districts or schools may use. The Department also must highlight evidence-based resources on the list and periodically review and update it.⁴

Survey on health curriculum compliance

The bill modifies the current law requirement that school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools report to the Department of Education and Workforce on prevention-focused programs, services, and supports aimed at increasing student awareness of the dangers and consequences of substance abuse, suicide, bullying, and other harmful behaviors.

Under the bill, districts and schools are required to report this information on an annual survey conducted by the Department, rather than in a manner prescribed by the Department as under current law. The survey must also include a description of the ways in which the district or school is complying with the bill’s requirement to provide instruction on the harmful effects of substance use to alter one’s mood.

School districts specifically also must report on the ways in which the district is complying with continuing law requirements to provide instruction on (1) the harmful effects of and legal

¹ R.C. 3301.165, 3313.6031, 3314.0311, 3326.092, and 3328.60.

² R.C. 3313.6031(A).

³ R.C. 3313.60(A)(5)(b).

⁴ R.C. 3301.0722.

restrictions against the use of drugs of abuse, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco and (2) prescription opioid abuse prevention.

The bill permits chartered nonpublic schools to elect to participate in the Department’s annual survey.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-22-25

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⁵ R.C. 3313.6024. See also R.C. 3313.60(A)(5)(b) and (g).