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H.B. 481
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Fowler Arthur and Piccolantonio

S. Ben Fogle, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Permits a public body to meet in an executive session to discuss the performance of a public employee or official.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Executive sessions of public bodies

Ohio's Sunshine Laws require public officials in public bodies to take official action and conduct all deliberations of official business only in open meetings, unless the law provides otherwise.

A public body may hold an executive session – or a meeting not open to the public – for a list of enumerated reasons, which generally pertain to internal or confidential matters. One of these existing reasons is to “consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.” But no public body may hold an executive session “for the discipline of an elected official for conduct related to the performance of the elected official’s official duties or for the elected official’s removal from office.”

The bill adds language clarifying that a public body may hold an executive session to discuss the performance of a public official or employee. Under continuing law, however, the public body could only discipline or remove a public official or employee in an open meeting.¹

¹ R.C. 121.22.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-29-25
