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Office of Research and Drafting

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H.B. 610
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Brent and McNally

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SUMMARY

- Dissolves all current academic distress commissions (ADCs) and repeals the law on the establishment of new commissions and academic improvement plans for districts with ADCs.
- Restores all powers under the Revised Code to the boards of education of school districts under an ADC.
- Declares an emergency.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Academic distress commissions

The bill dissolves all current academic distress commissions for persistently low performing school districts and repeals the law on the establishment of new commissions. It also repeals the law regarding academic improvement plans for school districts with an ADC.[1]

Ed Choice eligibility

Under the repealed law, students in a school district currently subject to an ADC are eligible for an Educational Choice (Ed Choice) scholarship. The bill clarifies that a student remains eligible for an Ed Choice scholarship if the student's resident school district "was" subject to the former section of law and the student continues to use the scholarship to attend a nonpublic school, while also maintaining other eligibility requirements. However, the bill maintains a provision of current law specifying that the Department must cease awarding first-time

[1] Repealed R.C. 3302.10, 3302.103, and 3302.11; conforming changes in R.C. 133.06(G)(1) and (2), 3302.036(B)(3), 3302.042(F), 3302.043(A), 3302.12(D), 3302.17(E), 3310.03(C) and (E), 3311.29(D), and 3314.102.

scholarships under the repealed academic distress commission provision when the commission ceases to exist.[2]

District board and school employees' powers and rights

After the bill's effective date when academic distress commissions cease to exist, the board of education of the district where an ADC was established reassumes all the powers granted to it under the Revised Code. The employees of that district reassume all the rights granted to them under the Revised Code.[3]

Emergency clause

The bill also declares an emergency measure for the purpose of dissolving all existing ADCs immediately and preventing new commissions from being formed.[4]

Background

Current law, repealed by the bill, requires the Director of Education and Workforce to establish an academic distress commission for certain school districts with persistently low academic performance to guide actions to improve their performance. Each commission must appoint a chief executive officer who has substantial powers to manage the operation of a qualifying district and prescribes progressive consequences for the district, including possible changes to collective bargaining agreements and eventual mayoral appointment of the district board. Currently, the Youngstown and East Cleveland City School districts have academic distress commissions.[5] Lorain City School District previously had an existing ADC, but it was dissolved in H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly.

Finally, current law, repealed by the bill, provides for academic improvement plans for districts under an ADC. Established by H.B. 110 of the 134th General Assembly, academic improvement plans allow school districts who are subject to an ADC to be relieved from the oversight of its ADC prior to meeting the conditions prescribed by current law. The Youngstown and East Cleveland school districts currently have academic improvement plans.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-25-25

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[2] R.C. 3310.03(C) and (E).

[3] Section 4.

[4] Section 5.

[5] R.C. 3302.10, repealed.