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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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S.B. 34
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Johnson

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SUMMARY

- Requires public schools to display in each school building classroom at least one of a list of historical educational documents.
- Permits a school to erect on any school grounds or premises a monument inscribed with one or more of the documents.
- Requires schools to determine the amount of funds necessary to comply with the bill's provisions but specifies they are not required to spend their own funds and instead may accept donated funds or displays.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to post on its website materials and information to assist schools in complying with the bill's requirements.
- Names the bill the "Historical Educational Displays Act."

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Historical educational displays

The bill enacts the "Historical Educational Displays Act" to require each public school (school district, community school, STEM school, and college-preparatory boarding school) to select to display in each of its classrooms at least one of the following historical educational documents:

1. The Mayflower Compact;
2. The Declaration of Independence;
3. The mottoes of the United States and Ohio;
4. The Ten Commandments;
5. The Magna Carta;

6. The Bill of Rights;
7. The United States Constitution; or
8. The Articles of Confederation.

The bill permits the school governing body to select distinct historical educational documents to be displayed in each classroom. A school must comply with the bill's requirement by July 1, 2026.¹

Monuments

The bill permits a public school to erect a monument or other marker inscribed with one or more of the documents on any school ground or premises.² A "school ground or premises" is (1) the parcel of real property on which any school building is situated or (2) any other parcel of real property that is owned or leased by a school governing body and on which some of the instruction, extracurricular activities, or training of the school is conducted.³

Educational purpose

The bill requires each public school to ensure that each display or monument is reasonably visible and accompanied by a description that serves an educational purpose by describing the document's historical importance.⁴

Use of donated funds and displays

The bill specifically does not require a public school to spend its own funds to purchase displays or erect a monument or other marker. Rather, the school must determine the amount of funds or donations required to comply with the bill's requirement and may accept donated funds or donated displays. However, the school is not required to accept funds or donated displays that contain limitations or conditions on acceptance or use.⁵

Duties of the Department of Education and Workforce

The Department of Education and Workforce must post on its website materials and information to assist public schools in complying with the bill's requirements.⁶

¹ R.C. 3313.802(A), 3314.03, 3326.11, and 3324.24.

² R.C. 3313.802(B).

³ R.C. 3313.753, not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 3313.802(C).

⁵ R.C. 3313.802(D).

⁶ R.C. 3313.802(E).

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-28-25
