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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 400  
136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Manchester

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### SUMMARY

- Authorizes the Director of Education and Workforce to designate a program meeting certain conditions as a high-quality youth development program.
- Establishes a process under which programs may seek designation and the Director reviews applications.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Designation as a high-quality youth development program

S.B. 400 authorizes a program, or group of affiliated programs represented by a statewide organization, to apply to the Director of Education and Workforce for designation as a high-quality youth development program.<sup>1</sup>

#### Eligibility

Before a program or group of affiliated programs can be designated as high-quality, the program or group must demonstrate to the Director that it meets the following eligibility conditions.<sup>2</sup>

#### Program type

The program or group must be, or support, any of the following entities:

- A child care center, family child care home, preschool program, or school child program licensed by the Department of Children and Youth (DCY);

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3301.96.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3301.96(B).

- A child day camp approved by DCY;
- A youth development program exempt from the law governing DCY's regulation of child care providers.<sup>3</sup>

### **Safety standards**

The program or group must provide adequate safety standards to ensure the care and protection of supported youth, including by (1) complying with federal, state, and local safety laws, (2) performing and documenting safety assessments, and (3) establishing screening protocols for its staff and volunteers.<sup>4</sup>

### **Financial soundness**

The program or group must exhibit financial soundness and accountability by doing the following:

- Maintaining – during the previous fiscal year – audited financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
- Submitting a copy of the results of a financial audit or review conducted within the previous year by a certified public accountant without personal or financial connections to the program or group;
- Maintaining adequate internal controls over all public funds, including by establishing written policies for procurement, conflict of interest, and segregation of financial duties.<sup>5</sup>

### **Documenting outcomes**

The program or group must be able to document its outcomes for Ohio youth.<sup>6</sup>

### **Programming**

The program or group must provide consistent, developmentally appropriate, and structured programming that is administered by qualified staff and aimed at youth outcomes in the areas of academic success, healthy lifestyles, and future readiness. It also must demonstrate a history of having operated – across multiple Ohio counties – year-round programming for youth in grades K to 12. Finally, the program or group must operate in one or more facilities that are both adequate and sufficient to safely and routinely provide intended programming for youth during consistent hours of operation.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3301.96(B)(1). *See also* R.C. 3301.52(A) and (I), 5104.01(B), (J), (L), (EE), (FF), (XX), and (YY), and 5104.02(B)(8) (none in the bill).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 3301.96(B)(2).

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 3301.96(B)(3).

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 3301.96(B)(4).

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 3301.96(B)(5) to (7).

### Partnerships and engagement

The program or group must demonstrate proficiency in establishing local partnerships and community and family engagement.<sup>8</sup>

### Director review

The bill requires the Director of Education and Workforce to review all applications submitted. After receiving an application that the Director considers complete, the Director must determine if the applicant meets the bill’s eligibility criteria for designation. If the Director makes that determination, then the Director must designate the program or group as a high-quality youth development program. Note that such a designation applies to each facility in which the program or group operates and provides youth programming.<sup>9</sup>

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## HISTORY

| Action     | Date     |
|------------|----------|
| Introduced | 04-01-26 |

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<sup>8</sup> R.C. 3301.96(B)(8).

<sup>9</sup> R.C. 3301.96(C).