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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 442
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Reynolds and Smith

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to adopt standards for food literacy education in grades K-12.
- Requires public schools to post the standards to their website and expressly permits them to use the standards in their curriculum.
- Entitles the bill the “Food Literacy Standards Act.”

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The bill requires the Department of Education and Workforce to adopt standards for food literacy education in grades K-12 within one year after the bill’s effective date. Based on a review of relevant and current national and state standards, the Department must include in the standards information that will provide students with specific guidance on how food choices influence health, how to prepare meals, and how food is grown. The bill requires the Department to consult with the Department of Agriculture when developing standards related to farming, production, and availability of wholesome foods.¹

The Department of Education and Workforce must, in a timely manner, post the adopted standards to its website and provide the standards and any revisions made to all school districts, community schools, and STEM schools. Districts and schools may use the standards in their curriculum, though if a district or school does not use the standards, it must provide its students with a copy of, or access to, the standards. Each district or school must post the standards and revisions on its publicly accessible website.²

¹ R.C. 3301.0733(A).

² R.C. 3301.0733(B).

The bill permits a student to be excused from any food literacy instruction aligned with the standards adopted by the Department upon written request from the student’s parent or guardian. Though, it further clarifies that it does not exempt a student from any health education or other curriculum requirements established for high school graduation.³

The bill exempts the food literacy standards from the general prohibition against the Department from adopting or revising any health education standards or curriculum unless they are approved by concurrent resolution of the General Assembly.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-19-26

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³ R.C. 3301.0733(C).

⁴ R.C. 3301.0718.