



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

Jennifer Stump

### **S.B. 65**

129th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Sens.** Cates, Lehner, Jones, Seitz, Obhof

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

- Eliminates the cap of 14,000 scholarships that may be awarded annually under the Educational Choice scholarship program.
- Declares an emergency.

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## **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

The bill eliminates the cap on the number of Educational Choice scholarships that may be awarded annually. Currently, up to 14,000 students may receive the scholarships each school year.<sup>1</sup> The bill also eliminates references to the scholarship program as a "pilot" program.<sup>2</sup>

### **Background**

The Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program provides scholarships to students attending or assigned to lower performing public schools to pay tuition at chartered nonpublic schools. The maximum amount of each scholarship is \$4,250 for grades K to 8, and \$5,000 for grades 9 to 12. To finance the scholarships, the Department of Education deducts from the state aid account of each scholarship student's resident school district \$5,200, which is used to fund both the Educational Choice Program and the Pilot Project Scholarship Program (the Cleveland voucher program).

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3310.02.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3310.02 to 3310.09, 3310.11, 3310.12, 3310.15, and 3310.17.

A student who receives an Educational Choice scholarship may continue to receive annual scholarships through grade 12, so long as the student's resident district stays the same or the student transfers to a new district and would be assigned to a qualifying school. Additionally, to remain eligible for the scholarships, the student must take each state achievement assessment prescribed for the student's grade level and have 20 or fewer unexcused absences during the school year.<sup>3</sup>

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-08-11

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3310.03, 3310.08, and 3310.09.

