



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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H.B. 446

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Rogers, Blair, Patterson, Perales, Foley, Phillips, Antonio

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules prescribing certain safety standards and enhancements for use in the construction of new school facilities for public schools and chartered and nonchartered nonpublic schools.
- Requires the School Facilities Commission to amend the construction and design standards used in the approval process for state assistance for new classroom facilities to comply with the standards adopted by the State Board.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Safety standards for construction of new school facilities

The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules prescribing safety standards for use in the construction of new school facilities for public schools and chartered and nonchartered nonpublic schools within 90 days of the bill's effective date. Under the bill, those standards must include design provisions to enhance the overall safety and well-being of the students and staff.¹ A newly constructed school must adopt at least two of the prescribed safety enhancements. However, the bill requires the standards to include language expressly permitting a new school to include more than two such enhancements.²

The standards prescribed by the State Board must include, but not be limited to, the following:

¹ R.C. 3301.80(A).

² R.C. 3301.80(B).

- Surveillance video;
- Entry way metal detectors;
- Direct entrance and exit routes located within a classroom, which may only be accessed from inside that classroom;
- An effective means of communication between the classrooms and the administrative offices;
- A real-time notification device located within a classroom, such as a panic button, to alert local area law enforcement when a staff member encounters a dangerous situation; and
- A means of threat containment, which may include a barrier system to lock down the portion of a building wherein a threat has been identified.³

School Facilities Commission construction and design standards

The bill directs the School Facilities Commission, within 180 days of the bill's effective date, to amend the Commission's construction and design standards used in the approval process of any new classroom facilities to comply with the standards prescribed by the State Board.⁴

Background on School Facilities Commission standards

The School Facilities Commission administers several programs that provide state assistance to school districts and community schools in constructing classroom facilities. The main program, the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program is designed to provide each city, exempted village, and local school district with partial funding to address all of the district's classroom facilities needs. The Commission annually approves for assistance a select number of districts from the list of those with the lowest three-year average adjusted valuations per pupil, and which have not already received assistance, based on the districts' estimated project costs and the amount of funding available for the fiscal year.⁵

Continuing law requires the commission to review, and if necessary, amend any construction and design standards used in its project approval process, including standards for location and number of exits, standards for lead safety, and locations of restrooms, with a focus on advancing student and staff safety and health. Further, when

³ R.C. 3301.80(A).

⁴ R.C. 3301.80.

⁵ See generally R.C. Chapter 3318.



reviewing design standards for classroom facilities projects, the Commission also must consider the extent to which those standards support the following:

- Support and facilitation of smaller classes and the trend toward smaller schools;
- Provision of sufficient space for training new teachers and promotion of collaboration among teaching professionals;
- Provision of adequate space for teacher planning and collaboration;
- Provision of adequate space for parent involvement activities; and
- Provision of sufficient space for innovative partnerships between schools and health and social service agencies.⁶

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-11-14

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⁶ R.C. 3318.031.

