

~~education licensure fund established under division (B) of section 3319.51~~ occupational licensing and regulatory fund established in section 4743.05 of the Revised Code.

Any person applying for or holding a license, certificate, or permit under this chapter is subject to sections 3123.41 to 3123.50 of the Revised Code and any applicable rules adopted under section 3123.63 of the Revised Code and sections 3319.31 and 3319.311 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3319.301. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Dropout prevention and recovery community school" ~~means a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code in which a majority of the students are enrolled in a dropout prevention and recovery program that is operated by the school~~ has the same meaning as in section 3314.02 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Industry-recognized credential program" means a career-technical course in which a student may earn an industry-recognized credential approved under section 3313.6113 of the Revised Code.

(3) "STEM school" means a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics school established under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code.

(B) The state board of education shall issue permits to individuals who are not licensed as required by sections 3319.22 to 3319.30 of the Revised Code, but who are otherwise qualified, to teach classes for not more than a total of twelve hours a week, except that an individual teaching in a STEM school or an individual teaching an industry-recognized credential program offered at a dropout prevention and recovery community school may teach classes for not more than a total of forty hours a week. The state board, by rule, shall set forth the qualifications, other than licensure under sections 3319.22 to 3319.30 of the Revised Code, to be met by individuals in order to be issued a permit as provided in this section. Such qualifications shall include the possession of a baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degree in, or significant experience related to, the subject the individual is to teach. For an individual assigned to teach a career-technical class, significant experience related to a subject shall include career-technical experience. Applications for permits pursuant to this section shall be made in accordance with section 3319.29 of the Revised Code. A permit issued under this section shall be renewable.

The state board, by rule, shall authorize the board of education of each school district and each STEM school to engage individuals holding permits issued under this section to teach classes for not more than the total number of hours a week specified in the permit. The rules shall include provisions with regard to each of the following:

(1) That a board of education or STEM school shall engage a nonlicensed individual to teach pursuant to this section on a volunteer basis, or by entering into a contract with the individual or the individual's employer on such terms and conditions as are agreed to between the board or school and the individual or the individual's employer;

(2) That an employee of the board of education or STEM school who is licensed under sections 3319.22 to 3319.30 of the Revised Code shall directly supervise a nonlicensed individual

who is engaged to teach pursuant to this section until the superintendent of the school district or the chief administrative officer of the STEM school is satisfied that the nonlicensed individual has sufficient understanding of, and experience in, effective teaching methods to teach without supervision.

(C) A nonlicensed individual engaged to teach pursuant to this section is a teacher for the purposes of Title XXXIII of the Revised Code except for the purposes of Chapters 3307. and 3317. and sections 3319.07 to 3319.31 of the Revised Code. Such an individual is not an employee of the board of education or STEM school for the purpose of Titles I or XLI or Chapter 3309. of the Revised Code.

(D) Students enrolled in a class taught by a nonlicensed individual pursuant to this section and rules adopted thereunder shall receive the same credit as if the class had been taught by an employee licensed pursuant to sections 3319.22 to 3319.30 of the Revised Code.

(E) No board of education of any school district shall engage any one or more nonlicensed individuals if such employment displaces from employment an existing licensed employee of the district.

(F) Chapter 4796. of the Revised Code does not apply to permits issued under this section.

Sec. 3319.311. (A)(1) The state board of education, or the superintendent of public instruction on behalf of the board, may investigate any information received about a person that reasonably appears to be a basis for action under section 3319.31 of the Revised Code, including information received pursuant to section 3314.40, 3319.291, 3319.313, 3326.24, 3328.19, 5126.253, or 5153.176 of the Revised Code. Except as provided in division (A)(2) of this section, the board shall contract with the office of the Ohio attorney general to conduct any investigation of that nature. The board shall pay for the costs of the contract only from moneys in the ~~state board of education licensure fund established under section 3319.51 of occupational licensing and regulatory fund established in section 4743.05~~ of the Revised Code. Except as provided in division (A)(2) of this section, all information received pursuant to section 3314.40, 3319.291, 3319.313, 3326.24, 3328.19, 5126.253, or 5153.176 of the Revised Code, and all information obtained during an investigation is confidential and is not a public record under section 149.43 of the Revised Code. If an investigation is conducted under this division regarding information received about a person and no action is taken against the person under this section or section 3319.31 of the Revised Code within two years of the completion of the investigation, all records of the investigation shall be expunged.

(2) In the case of a person about whom the board has learned of a plea of guilty to, finding of guilt by a jury or court of, or a conviction of an offense listed in division (C) of section 3319.31 of the Revised Code, or substantially comparable conduct occurring in a jurisdiction outside this state, the board or the superintendent of public instruction need not conduct any further investigation and shall take the action required by division (C) or (F) of that section. Except as provided in division (G) of this section, all information obtained by the board or the superintendent of public instruction

pertaining to the action is a public record under section 149.43 of the Revised Code.

(B) The superintendent of public instruction shall review the results of each investigation of a person conducted under division (A)(1) of this section and shall determine, on behalf of the state board, whether the results warrant initiating action under division (B) of section 3319.31 of the Revised Code. The superintendent shall advise the board of such determination at a meeting of the board. Within fourteen days of the next meeting of the board, any member of the board may ask that the question of initiating action under section 3319.31 of the Revised Code be placed on the board's agenda for that next meeting. Prior to initiating that action against any person, the person's name and any other personally identifiable information shall remain confidential.

(C) The board shall take no action against a person under division (B) of section 3319.31 of the Revised Code without providing the person with written notice of the charges and with an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(D) For purposes of an investigation under division (A)(1) of this section or a hearing under division (C) of this section or under division (E)(2) of section 3319.31 of the Revised Code, the board, or the superintendent on behalf of the board, may administer oaths, order the taking of depositions, issue subpoenas, and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, accounts, papers, records, documents, and testimony. The issuance of subpoenas under this division may be by certified mail, regular mail with a certificate of mailing, or other form of delivery with proof of delivery, including electronic delivery with electronic proof of delivery, or personal delivery to the person.

(E) The superintendent, on behalf of the board, may enter into a consent agreement with a person against whom action is being taken under division (B) of section 3319.31 of the Revised Code. The board may adopt rules governing the superintendent's action under this division.

(F) No surrender of a license shall be effective until the board takes action to accept the surrender unless the surrender is pursuant to a consent agreement entered into under division (E) of this section.

(G) The name of any person who is not required to report information under section 3314.40, 3319.313, 3326.24, 3328.19, 5126.253, or 5153.176 of the Revised Code, but who in good faith provides information to the state board or superintendent of public instruction about alleged misconduct committed by a person who holds a license or has applied for issuance or renewal of a license, shall be confidential and shall not be released. Any such person shall be immune from any civil liability that otherwise might be incurred or imposed for injury, death, or loss to person or property as a result of the provision of that information.

(H)(1) No person shall knowingly make a false report to the superintendent of public instruction or the state board of education alleging misconduct by an employee of a public or chartered nonpublic school or an employee of the operator of a community school established under Chapter 3314. or a college-preparatory boarding school established under Chapter 3328. of the Revised Code.

(2)(a) In any civil action brought against a person in which it is alleged and proved that the person violated division (H)(1) of this section, the court shall award the prevailing party reasonable attorney's fees and costs that the prevailing party incurred in the civil action or as a result of the false report that was the basis of the violation.

(b) If a person is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of division (H)(1) of this section, if the subject of the false report that was the basis of the violation was charged with any violation of a law or ordinance as a result of the false report, and if the subject of the false report is found not to be guilty of the charges brought against the subject as a result of the false report or those charges are dismissed, the court that sentences the person for the violation of division (H)(1) of this section, as part of the sentence, shall order the person to pay restitution to the subject of the false report, in an amount equal to reasonable attorney's fees and costs that the subject of the false report incurred as a result of or in relation to the charges.

Sec. 3319.51. ~~(A)(1)(A)~~ As used in this section, "operating expenses" includes the cost of administering requirements related to the issuance and renewal of licenses, certificates, or permits described in this chapter and sections 3301.071 and 3301.074 of the Revised Code and any other cost incurred by the state board of education to perform a duty prescribed by law.

~~(B)~~ The state board of education shall annually establish the amount of the fees required to be paid for any license, certificate, or permit issued under this chapter or division (B) of section 3301.071 or section 3301.074 of the Revised Code. Except as provided in division (A)(2)-(C) of this section, the amount of these fees shall be such that they, along with any appropriation made to the fund established under division (B) of this section by the general assembly, will be sufficient to cover the annual estimated cost of administering the requirements related to the issuance and renewal of licenses, certificates, and permits described in this chapter and sections 3301.071 and 3301.074 of the Revised Code. operating expenses of the state board.

~~(2)(C)~~ The state board shall not require any fee to be paid under division (A)(1)-(B) of this section for a license, certificate, or permit issued for the purpose of teaching in a junior reserve officer training corps (JROTC) program approved by the congress of the United States under title 10 of the United States Code.

~~(B)~~ There is hereby established in the state treasury the state board of education licensure fund, which shall be used by the state board of education to pay the state board's operating expenses, including any cost incurred to perform a duty prescribed by law and the cost of administering requirements related to the issuance and renewal of licenses, certificates, and permits described in this chapter and sections 3301.071 and 3301.074 of the Revised Code. The fund shall consist of the amounts paid into the fund pursuant to division (B) of section 3301.071 and sections 3301.074 and 3319.29 of the Revised Code and any appropriations to the fund by the general assembly.

(D) The operating expenses of the state board shall be paid primarily from, and all license, certificate, or permit fees received by the state board shall be deposited in, the state treasury to the credit of the occupational licensing and regulatory fund established in section 4743.05 of the

Revised Code.

Sec. 3320.04. Each school district board of education shall adopt a policy that reasonably accommodates the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of individual students with regard to all examinations or other academic requirements and absences for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system. The policy shall satisfy all of the following conditions:

(A) The policy shall permit a student in any of grades kindergarten through twelve to be absent for up to three religious expression days each school year to take holidays for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system or participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or other religious or spiritual organization. The district shall not impose an academic penalty as a result of a student being absent as permitted in the policy. The policy shall also permit students to participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular activities on days in which the student was otherwise absent for a religious expression day.

(B)(1) The policy shall require that students be provided with alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements missed due to an absence described in division (A) of this section if not later than fourteen school days after the first day of school, or fourteen school days after the date of enrollment for a student who transfers to or enrolls in the district after the first day of school, the parent or guardian of a student provides the school principal with written notice of up to three specific dates for which alternative accommodations are requested, if an absence approved under division (B)(2) of this section conflicts with an examination or other academic requirement on that date.

(2) The school principal shall approve not more than three written requests per school year from a student's parent or guardian for an excused absence under division (A) of this section. The school principal shall approve such requests without inquiry into the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system. However, the school principal may verify a request received under division (A) of this section by contacting the parent or guardian whose signature appears on the request. If a parent or guardian disputes having signed such a request, the school principal may deny the request. Upon approval of a request that satisfies division (B)(1) of this section, a school principal shall require the appropriate classroom teacher or teachers to schedule a time and date for an alternative examination or other academic requirement if the approved student absence creates a conflict, which may be before or after the time and date the examination or other academic requirement was originally scheduled.

(C) The policy shall require the district board to post both of the following in a prominent location on the district's web site:

(1) A copy of the policy adopted under this section, which shall include the contact information of an individual who can provide further information about the policy;

(2) A nonexhaustive list of major religious holidays, festivals, and religious observations, which may include, Eid, Good Friday, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Passover, for which an excused absence under this section shall not be unreasonably withheld or denied.

The director of education and workforce shall provide each district with a nonexhaustive list of major religious holidays or festivals for the next two school years, including Eid, Good Friday, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Passover, at the beginning of each school year. Each district may adopt the director's list in its entirety or choose which holidays to include on its list.

Each time a district's policy is posted, printed, or published, including as described in divisions (C) and (D) of this section, the district shall include a statement that the list is nonexhaustive, and the list may not be used to deny accommodation to a student for a holiday or festival of the student's faith or religious or spiritual belief system that does not appear on the list.

Nothing in this section, and no inclusion or exclusion of a religious holiday or festival on the list posted by a district, shall preclude a student from full and reasonable accommodations for any sincerely held religious beliefs and practices with regard to all examinations or other academic requirements and absences for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system provided under this section.

(D) The policy shall require school districts annually to convey to parents and guardians the policy adopted under this section, including a description of the general procedure for requesting accommodations. The manner in which the school district conveys the information shall be determined at the discretion of the district.

(E) The policy shall include a procedure under which a student, parent, or guardian may notify the district of any grievance with regard to the implementation of the policy required under this section.

(F) Any days excused under this section shall not be considered in determining absence hours for the purposes of parental notification under ~~division (C)(1) of section 3321.191 of the Revised Code.~~

Sec. 3321.043. (A) As used in this section, "driver education course" means a private driver training course approved by the director of public safety in accordance with Chapter 4508. of the Revised Code.

(B) If a high school student enrolled in a school district is absent from school for the sole purpose of attending a driver education course, the district shall count that absence as an excused absence, up to a maximum of eight hours for that student. The student shall only be absent for up to two hours per day for not more than four days in meeting the maximum eight hours authorized by this section. The days may be nonconsecutive. No student may be released from a core curriculum subject course to attend a driver education course.

(C) The district shall require any student absent from school in accordance with this section to complete any classroom assignments that the student misses because of the absence.

Sec. 3321.16. (A) An attendance officer or assistant provided for by section 3321.14 or 3321.15 of the Revised Code may investigate any case of nonattendance at school or part-time school of a child under eighteen years of age or supposed to be under eighteen years of age resident in the district for which such attendance officer or assistant is employed, or of any such child found

in the district or enrolled in any school within the district and of any child above eighteen years of age if enrolled in any school within the district, and may take such action as the superintendent of schools directs or as such attendance officer or assistant deems proper in the absence of specific direction.

(B)(1) Subject to divisions (B)(2) and (3) of this section, the attendance officer shall file a complaint in the juvenile court against ~~a student on the sixty-first day after the implementation of an absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies, provided that all~~ any student to which any of the following apply:

(a) The student was absent without legitimate excuse from the public school the child is supposed to attend for thirty or more consecutive hours;

~~(b) The student was absent without legitimate excuse from the public school the child is supposed to attend for forty-two or more hours in one school month; or~~

~~(c) The student was absent without legitimate excuse from the public school the child is supposed to attend for seventy-two or more hours in a school year.~~

~~(b) The school district or school has made meaningful attempts to re-engage the student through the absence intervention plan, other intervention strategies, and any offered alternatives to adjudication described under division (C)(2)(b) of section 3321.191 of the Revised Code.~~

~~(c) The student has refused to participate in or failed to make satisfactory progress on the plan, as determined by the absence intervention team, or any offered intervention strategies or alternative to adjudication.~~

~~(2) If the student, at any time during the implementation phase of the absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies, is absent without legitimate excuse for thirty or more consecutive hours or forty-two or more hours in one school month, the attendance officer shall file a complaint in juvenile court against that student, unless the absence intervention team has determined that the student has made substantial progress on the absence intervention plan. student's district or school determines that the student and the student's family are making satisfactory progress in improving the student's attendance at school, the attendance officer shall not file a complaint.~~

~~(3) In the event that the sixty-first day after the implementation of the absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies falls on a day during the summer months, in the school district's discretion, the absence intervention team or the attendance officer may extend the implementation of the plan and delay the filing of the complaint for an additional thirty days from the first day of instruction of the next school year. If no determination of progress under division (B)(2) of this section is made, or if the student and the student's family cease to continue making progress in improving the student's attendance, the attendance officer shall file a complaint in the juvenile court against the student.~~

A complaint filed in the juvenile court under division (B)(3) of this section shall allege that the child is an unruly child for being a habitual truant and that the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has violated section 3321.38 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3321.19. (A) As used in this section and section ~~3321.191~~ 3321.16 of the Revised Code, "habitual truant" has the same meaning as in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code.

(B) When a board of education of any city, exempted village, local, joint vocational, or cooperative education school district or the governing board of any educational service center determines that a student in its district has been truant and the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has failed to cause the student's attendance at school, the board may require the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child pursuant to division (B) of this section to attend an educational program established pursuant to rules adopted by the department of education and workforce for the purpose of encouraging parental involvement in compelling the attendance of the child at school.

No parent, guardian, or other person having care of a child shall fail without good cause to attend an educational program described in this division if the parent, guardian, or other person has been served notice pursuant to division (C) of this section.

(C) On the request of the superintendent of schools, the superintendent of any educational service center, the board of education of any city, exempted village, local, joint vocational, or cooperative education school district, or the governing board of any educational service center or when it otherwise comes to the notice of the attendance officer or other appropriate officer of the school district, the attendance officer or other appropriate officer shall examine into any case of supposed truancy within the district and shall warn the child, if found truant, and the child's parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child, in writing, of the legal consequences of being truant. When any child of compulsory school age, in violation of law, is not attending school, the attendance or other appropriate officer shall notify the parent, guardian, or other person having care of that child of the fact, and require the parent, guardian, or other person to cause the child to attend school immediately. The parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child shall cause the child's attendance at school. Upon the failure of the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to do so, the attendance officer or other appropriate officer, if so directed by the superintendent, the district board, or the educational service center governing board, shall send notice requiring the attendance of that parent, guardian, or other person at a parental education program established pursuant to division (B) of this section and, ~~subject to divisions (D) and (E) of this section,~~ may file a complaint against the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child in any court of competent jurisdiction.

~~(D)(1) Upon the failure of the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to cause the child's attendance at school, if the child is considered an habitual truant, the board of education of the school district or the governing board of the educational service center, within ten days, subject to division (E) of this section, shall assign the student to an absence intervention team as described in division (C) of section 3321.191 of the Revised Code.~~

~~(2) The attendance officer shall file a complaint in the juvenile court of the county in which the child has a residence or legal settlement or in which the child is supposed to attend school jointly~~

~~against the child and the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child, in accordance with the timelines and conditions set forth in division (B) of section 3321.16 of the Revised Code. A complaint filed in the juvenile court under this division shall allege that the child is an unruly child for being an habitual truant and that the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has violated section 3321.38 of the Revised Code.~~

~~(E) A school district with a chronic absenteeism percentage that is less than five per cent, as displayed on the district's most recent report card issued under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code, and the school buildings within that district, shall be exempt from the requirement to assign habitually truant students to an absence intervention team for the following school year and shall instead take any appropriate action as an intervention strategy contained in the policy developed by the district board pursuant to divisions (A) and (B) of section 3321.191 of the Revised Code. In the event that those intervention strategies fail, within sixty one days after their implementation, the attendance officer shall file a complaint, provided that the conditions described in division (B) of section 3321.16 of the Revised Code are satisfied.~~

Sec. 3321.191. (A) As used in this section, "chronically absent" means missing at least ten per cent of the minimum number of hours required in the school year under section 3313.48 of the Revised Code for the school a student attends.

(B) Not later than August 1, 2026, the board of education of each school district shall adopt a policy to address student absences. In developing the policy, the board shall consult with the juvenile court of the county or counties in which the district is located; the parents, guardians, or other persons having care of a student attending school in the district; and appropriate state and local agencies.

(C) The policy adopted under division (B) of this section shall do all of the following:

(1) Acknowledge that student absences from school for any reason, whether excused or unexcused, take away from instructional time and have an adverse effect on student learning;

(2) Identify strategies to prevent students from becoming chronically absent;

(3) Include procedures for notifying a student's parent, guardian, or custodian when the student has been absent from school for a number of hours determined by the board, which number shall not exceed five per cent of the minimum number of hours required in the school year under section 3313.48 of the Revised Code for the school the student attends;

(4) Establish a tiered system that provides more intensive interventions and supports for students with greater numbers of absences and includes resources to help students and their families address the root causes of the absences;

(5) Provide for one or more absence intervention teams to work with students at risk of becoming chronically absent and their families to improve the students' attendance at school;

(6) Prohibit suspending, expelling, or otherwise preventing a student from attending school based on the student's absences as prescribed by section 3313.668 of the Revised Code.

(D) The policy shall align with any other district or school improvement plan developed

pursuant to state or federal law.

(E) A district or school may consult or partner with public, nonprofit, or private entities to provide assistance as appropriate to students and their families in reducing absences.

Sec. 3321.22. ~~(A) Except as provided in division (B) of this section, if~~ If a complaint is filed against the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of a child for a failure to cause the child to attend school or a part-time school or class and if the parent, guardian, or other person proves an inability to do so, then the parent, guardian, or other person in charge of a child shall be discharged. Upon the discharge, the attendance officer shall file a complaint before the judge of the juvenile court of the county alleging that the child is a delinquent child, unruly child, or dependent child within the meaning of section 2151.022, 2151.04, or 2152.02 of the Revised Code. The judge shall hear the complaint and if the judge determines that the child is a delinquent, unruly, or dependent child within one of those sections the judge shall deal with the child according to section 2151.35 or 2151.36 of the Revised Code.

~~(B) Division (A) of this section does not apply regarding a complaint filed under division (D) or (E) of section 3321.19 of the Revised Code or otherwise filed and alleging that a child is an habitual truant.~~

Sec. 3323.32. ~~(A)~~ The department of education and workforce shall contract with an entity to administer programs and coordinate services for infants, preschool and school-age children, and adults with autism and low incidence disabilities. The entity shall be selected by the director of education and workforce in consultation with the director of children and youth and the advisory board established under section 3323.33 of the Revised Code.

When applicable, the department of children and youth shall contract with an entity to administer programs and coordinate services for infants, preschool and school-age children, and adults with autism and low incidence disabilities. The entity shall be selected by the director of children and youth in consultation with the director of education and workforce and the advisory board established under section 3323.33 of the Revised Code.

~~The contract with the entity selected~~ Any contract entered into under this section shall include, but not be limited to, the following provisions:

~~(1)(A)~~ A description of the programs to be administered and services to be provided or coordinated by the entity, which shall include at least the duties prescribed by sections 3323.34 and 3323.35 of the Revised Code;

~~(2)(B)~~ A description of the expected outcomes from the programs administered and services provided or coordinated by the entity;

~~(3)(C)~~ A stipulation that the entity's performance is subject to evaluation by the contracting department and renewal of the entity's contract is subject to the department's satisfaction with the entity's performance;

~~(4)(D)~~ A description of the measures and milestones the contracting department will use to determine whether the performance of the entity is satisfactory;

(5)(E) Any other provision the contracting department determines is necessary to ensure the quality of services to individuals with autism and low incidence disabilities.

~~(B) In selecting the entity under division (A) of this section, the director of education and workforce, the director of children and youth, and the advisory board shall give primary consideration to the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, established under section 3323.31 of the Revised Code, as long as the principal goals and mission of the Center, as determined by the director, the director, and the advisory board, are consistent with the requirements of divisions (A) (1) to (5) of this section.~~

Sec. 3325.08. (A) A diploma shall be granted by the superintendent of Ohio deaf and blind education services to any student enrolled in the state school for the blind or the state school for the deaf to whom all of the following apply:

(1) The student has successfully completed the curriculum in any high school or the individualized education program developed for the student for the student's high school education pursuant to section 3323.08 of the Revised Code;

(2) Subject to section 3313.614 of the Revised Code, the student has met the assessment requirements of division (A)(2)(a) or (b) of this section, as applicable.

(a) If the student entered the ninth grade prior to July 1, 2014, the student either:

(i) Has attained at least the applicable scores designated under division (B)(1) of section 3301.0710 of the Revised Code on all the assessments prescribed by that division unless division (L) of section 3313.61 of the Revised Code applies to the student;

(ii) Has satisfied the alternative conditions prescribed in section 3313.615 of the Revised Code.

(b) If the student entered the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2014, the student has met the requirement prescribed by section 3313.618 of the Revised Code, except to the extent that division (L) of section 3313.61 of the Revised Code applies to the student.

(3) The student is not eligible to receive an honors diploma granted pursuant to division (B) of this section.

No diploma shall be granted under this division to anyone except as provided under this division.

(B) In lieu of a diploma granted under division (A) of this section, the superintendent of Ohio deaf and blind education services shall grant an honors diploma, in the same manner that the boards of education of school districts grant such diplomas under division (B) of section 3313.61 of the Revised Code, to any student enrolled in the state school for the blind or the state school for the deaf who accomplishes all of the following:

(1) Successfully completes the curriculum in any high school or the individualized education program developed for the student for the student's high school education pursuant to section 3323.08 of the Revised Code;

(2) Subject to section 3313.614 of the Revised Code, has met the assessment requirements of

division (B)(2)(a) or (b) of this section, as applicable.

(a) If the student entered the ninth grade prior to July 1, 2014, the student either:

(i) Has attained at least the applicable scores designated under division (B)(1) of section 3301.0710 of the Revised Code on all the assessments prescribed under that division;

(ii) Has satisfied the alternative conditions prescribed in section 3313.615 of the Revised Code.

(b) If the student entered the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2014, the student has met the requirement prescribed by section 3313.618 of the Revised Code.

(3) Has met additional criteria for granting an honors diploma.

These additional criteria shall be the same as those prescribed by the ~~state board~~ department of education and workforce under division (B) of section 3313.61 of the Revised Code for the granting of such diplomas by school districts. No honors diploma shall be granted to anyone failing to comply with this division and not more than one honors diploma shall be granted to any student under this division.

(C) A diploma or honors diploma awarded under this section shall be signed by the director of education and workforce and the superintendent of Ohio deaf and blind education services. Each diploma shall bear the date of its issue and be in such form as the superintendent of Ohio deaf and blind education services prescribes.

(D) Upon granting a diploma to a student under this section, the superintendent of Ohio deaf and blind education services shall provide notice of receipt of the diploma to the board of education of the school district where the student is entitled to attend school under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code when not residing at the state school for the blind or the state school for the deaf. The notice shall indicate the type of diploma granted.

Sec. 3325.16. There is hereby created in the state treasury the state school for the deaf educational program expenses fund. Moneys received by Ohio deaf and blind education services for the state school for the deaf from donations, bequests, student fundraising activities, fees charged for camps and workshops, gate receipts from athletic contests, and the student work experience program operated by the school, and any other moneys designated for deposit in the fund by the superintendent of Ohio deaf and blind education services, shall be credited to the fund. All investment earnings on money in the fund shall be credited to the fund. Notwithstanding section 3325.01 of the Revised Code, the approval of the department of education and workforce is not required to designate money for deposit into the fund. Ohio deaf and blind education services shall use moneys in the fund for educational programs, after-school activities, and expenses associated with student activities and clubs at the state school for the deaf.

Sec. 3325.17. There is hereby created in the state treasury the state school for the blind educational program expense fund. Moneys received by Ohio deaf and blind education services for the state school for the blind from donations, bequests, student fundraising activities, fees charged for camps, workshops, and summer work and learn cooperative programs, gate receipts from school

activities, and any other moneys designated for deposit in the fund by the superintendent of Ohio deaf and blind education services, shall be credited to the fund. All investment earnings on money in the fund shall be credited to the fund. Notwithstanding section 3325.01 of the Revised Code, the approval of the department of education and workforce is not required to designate money for deposit into the fund. Ohio deaf and blind education services shall use moneys in the fund for educational programs, after-school activities, and expenses associated with student activities at the state school for the blind.

Sec. 3326.11. Each science, technology, engineering, and mathematics school established under this chapter and its governing body shall comply with sections 9.90, 9.91, 109.65, 121.22, 149.43, 2151.357, 2151.421, 2313.19, 2921.42, 2921.43, 3301.0714, 3301.0715, 3301.0729, 3301.24, 3301.948, 3302.037, -3313.14, 3313.15, 3313.16, 3313.18, 3313.201, 3313.26, 3313.472, 3313.473, 3313.474, 3313.48, 3313.481, 3313.482, 3313.50, 3313.539, 3313.5310, 3313.5318, 3313.5319, 3313.608, 3313.6012, 3313.6013, 3313.6014, 3313.6020, 3313.6021, 3313.6023, 3313.6024, 3313.6026, 3313.6028, 3313.6029, 3313.6031, 3313.61, 3313.611, 3313.614, 3313.615, 3313.617, 3313.618, 3313.6114, 3313.643, 3313.648, 3313.6411, 3313.6413, 3313.66, 3313.661, 3313.662, 3313.666, 3313.667, 3313.668, 3313.669, 3313.6610, 3313.67, 3313.671, 3313.672, 3313.673, 3313.69, 3313.71, 3313.716, 3313.717, 3313.718, 3313.719, 3313.7112, 3313.7117, 3313.7118, 3313.721, 3313.753, 3313.80, 3313.801, 3313.814, 3313.816, 3313.817, 3313.818, 3313.819, 3313.86, 3313.89, 3313.96, 3319.073, 3319.077, 3319.078, 3319.0812, 3319.21, 3319.238, 3319.318, 3319.32, 3319.321, 3319.324, 3319.35, 3319.39, 3319.391, 3319.393, 3319.41, 3319.45, 3319.46, 3319.90, 3319.614, 3320.01, 3320.02, 3320.03, 3320.04, 3321.01, 3321.041, 3321.05, 3321.13, 3321.14, 3321.141, 3321.17, 3321.18, 3321.19, 3321.191, 3322.20, 3322.24, 3323.251, 3327.10, 4111.17, 4113.52, 5502.262, 5502.703, and 5705.391 and Chapters 102., 117., 1347., 2744., 3307., 3309., 3365., 3742., 4112., 4123., 4141., and 4167. of the Revised Code as if it were a school district.

Sec. 3326.44. For fiscal years 2024-2026 and 2025-2027, a STEM school shall spend the funding it receives under division (A)(5) of section 3317.022 of the Revised Code only for services for English learners.

Sec. 3326.51. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Resident district" has the same meaning as in section 3326.31 of the Revised Code.

(2) "STEM school sponsoring district" means a municipal, city, local, or exempted village school district that governs and controls a STEM school pursuant to this section.

(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary:

(1) If a proposal for a STEM school submitted under section 3326.03 of the Revised Code proposes that the governing body of the school be the board of education of a municipal, city, local, or exempted village school district that is one of the partners submitting the proposal, and the STEM committee approves that proposal, that school district board shall govern and control the STEM school as one of the schools of its district.

(2) The STEM school sponsoring district shall maintain a separate accounting for the STEM school as a separate and distinct operational unit within the district's finances. ~~The auditor of state, in the course of an annual or biennial audit of the school district serving as the STEM school sponsoring district, shall audit that school district for compliance with the financing requirements of this section.~~

(3) With respect to students enrolled in a STEM school whose resident district is the STEM school sponsoring district:

(a) The department of education and workforce shall make payments to the school in accordance with section 3317.022 of the Revised Code from the STEM school sponsoring district's state payments.

(b) The STEM school sponsoring district is responsible for providing children with disabilities with a free appropriate public education under Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code.

(c) The STEM school sponsoring district shall provide student transportation in accordance with laws and policies generally applicable to the district.

(4) With respect to students enrolled in the STEM school whose resident district is another school district, the department shall consider the students as open enrollment students and shall make payments to the school in accordance with section 3317.022 of the Revised Code.

(5) A STEM school sponsoring district and its board may assign its district employees to the STEM school, in which case section 3326.18 of the Revised Code shall not apply. The district and board may apply any other resources of the district to the STEM school in the same manner that it applies district resources to other district schools.

(6) Provisions of this chapter requiring a STEM school and its governing body to comply with specified laws as if it were a school district and in the same manner as a board of education shall instead require such compliance by the STEM school sponsoring district and its board of education, respectively, with respect to the STEM school. Where a STEM school or its governing body is required to perform a specific duty or permitted to take a specific action under this chapter, that duty is required to be performed or that action is permitted to be taken by the STEM school sponsoring district or its board of education, respectively, with respect to the STEM school.

(7) No provision of this chapter limits the authority, as provided otherwise by law, of a school district and its board of education to levy taxes and issue bonds secured by tax revenues.

(8) The treasurer of the STEM school sponsoring district or, if the STEM school sponsoring district is a municipal school district, the chief financial officer of the district, shall have all of the respective rights, authority, exemptions, and duties otherwise conferred upon the treasurer or chief financial officer by the Revised Code.

Sec. 3327.017. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Eligible student" has the same meaning as in section 3327.016 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Mass transit system" has the same meaning as in section 4511.78 of the Revised Code.

(B) No city, local, or exempted village school district shall provide or arrange for

transportation for any eligible student enrolled in any of grades kindergarten through eight in a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code or chartered nonpublic school to and from school using vehicles operated by a mass transit system, unless the district enters into an agreement with that school authorizing such transportation. An agreement under division (B) of this section shall not be effective unless both the school district and community or chartered nonpublic school approve it.

(C) A city, local, or exempted village school district that elects to provide or arrange for transportation for any eligible student enrolled in any of grades nine through twelve in a community or chartered nonpublic school to and from school using vehicles operated by a mass transit system shall ensure that the student is assigned to a route that does not require the student to make more than one transfer. With respect to a mass transit system with a central transfer hub located in a county that has a population between five hundred thirty thousand and five hundred forty thousand according to the most recent federal decennial census, the city, local, or exempted village school district shall ensure that any transfer does not occur at the central transfer hub for the mass transit system.

Sec. 3327.08. Boards of education of city school districts, local school districts, exempted village school districts, cooperative education school districts, and joint vocational school districts and governing boards of educational service centers may purchase on individual contract school buses, including multifunction school activity buses, and other equipment used in transporting children to and from school and to other functions as authorized by the boards, or the boards, at their discretion, may purchase the buses and equipment through any system of centralized purchasing established by the department of education and workforce for that purpose, provided that state subsidy payments shall be based on the amount of the lowest price available to the boards by either method of purchase. No board shall be deprived of any form of state assistance in the purchase of buses and equipment by reason of purchases of buses and equipment on an individual contract.

The purchase of school buses and multifunction school activity buses shall be made only after competitive bidding in accordance with section 3313.46 of the Revised Code. All bids shall state that the buses, prior to delivery, will comply with the safety rules of the department of public safety adopted pursuant to section 4511.76 of the Revised Code and all other pertinent provisions of law.

At no time shall bid bonds be required for the purchase of school buses and multifunction school activity buses, unless the district board or educational service center governing board requests that bid bonds be part of the competitive bidding process for a specified purchase.

Sec. 3327.10. (A) Except as provided in division (L) of this section, no person shall be employed as driver of a school bus or motor van, owned and operated by any school district or educational service center or privately owned and operated under contract with any school district or service center in this state, who has not received a certificate from either the educational service center governing board that has entered into an agreement with the school district under section

3313.843 or 3313.845 of the Revised Code or the superintendent of the school district, certifying that such person is at least eighteen years of age and is qualified physically and otherwise for such position. The service center governing board or the superintendent, as the case may be, shall provide for an annual physical examination that conforms with rules adopted by the department of education and workforce of each driver to ascertain the driver's physical fitness for such employment. The examination shall be performed by one of the following:

(1) A person licensed under Chapter 4731. or 4734. of the Revised Code or by another state to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or chiropractic;

(2) A physician assistant;

(3) A certified nurse practitioner;

(4) A clinical nurse specialist;

(5) A certified nurse-midwife;

(6) A medical examiner who is listed on the national registry of certified medical examiners established by the federal motor carrier safety administration in accordance with 49 C.F.R. part 390.

Any certificate may be revoked by the authority granting the same on proof that the holder has been guilty of failing to comply with division (D)(1) of this section, or upon a conviction or a guilty plea for a violation, or any other action, that results in a loss or suspension of driving rights. Failure to comply with such division may be cause for disciplinary action or termination of employment under division (C) of section 3319.081, or section 124.34 of the Revised Code.

(B) Except as provided in division (L) of this section, no person shall be employed as driver of a school bus or motor van not subject to the rules of the department pursuant to division (A) of this section who has not received a certificate from the school administrator or contractor certifying that such person is at least eighteen years of age and is qualified physically and otherwise for such position. Each driver shall have an annual physical examination which conforms to the state highway patrol rules, ascertaining the driver's physical fitness for such employment. The examination shall be performed by one of the following:

(1) A person licensed under Chapter 4731. or 4734. of the Revised Code or by another state to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or chiropractic;

(2) A physician assistant;

(3) A certified nurse practitioner;

(4) A clinical nurse specialist;

(5) A certified nurse-midwife;

(6) A medical examiner who is listed on the national registry of certified medical examiners established by the federal motor carrier safety administration in accordance with 49 C.F.R. part 390.

Any written documentation of the physical examination shall be completed by the individual who performed the examination.

Any certificate may be revoked by the authority granting the same on proof that the holder has been guilty of failing to comply with division (D)(2) of this section.

(C) Any person who drives a school bus or motor van must give satisfactory and sufficient bond except a driver who is an employee of a school district and who drives a bus or motor van owned by the school district.

(D) No person employed as driver of a school bus or motor van under this section who is convicted of a traffic violation or who has had the person's commercial driver's license suspended shall drive a school bus or motor van until the person has filed a written notice of the conviction or suspension, as follows:

(1) If the person is employed under division (A) of this section, the person shall file the notice with the superintendent, or a person designated by the superintendent, of the school district for which the person drives a school bus or motor van as an employee or drives a privately owned and operated school bus or motor van under contract.

(2) If employed under division (B) of this section, the person shall file the notice with the employing school administrator or contractor, or a person designated by the administrator or contractor.

(E) In addition to resulting in possible revocation of a certificate as authorized by divisions (A) and (B) of this section, violation of division (D) of this section is a minor misdemeanor.

(F)(1) Not later than thirty days after June 30, 2007, each owner of a school bus or motor van shall obtain the complete driving record for each person who is currently employed or otherwise authorized to drive the school bus or motor van. An owner of a school bus or motor van shall not permit a person to operate the school bus or motor van for the first time before the owner has obtained the person's complete driving record. Thereafter, the owner of a school bus or motor van shall obtain the person's driving record not less frequently than semiannually if the person remains employed or otherwise authorized to drive the school bus or motor van. An owner of a school bus or motor van shall not permit a person to resume operating a school bus or motor van, after an interruption of one year or longer, before the owner has obtained the person's complete driving record.

(2) The owner of a school bus or motor van shall not permit a person to operate the school bus or motor van for ten years after the date on which the person pleads guilty to or is convicted of a violation of section 4511.19 of the Revised Code or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.

(3) An owner of a school bus or motor van shall not permit any person to operate such a vehicle unless the person meets all other requirements contained in rules adopted by the department prescribing qualifications of drivers of school buses and other student transportation.

(G) No superintendent of a school district, educational service center, community school, or public or private employer shall permit the operation of a vehicle used for pupil transportation within this state by an individual unless both of the following apply:

(1) Information pertaining to that driver has been submitted to the department, pursuant to procedures adopted by that department. Information to be reported shall include the name of the employer or school district, name of the driver, driver license number, date of birth, date of hire,

status of physical evaluation, and status of training.

(2) The most recent criminal records check required by division (J) of this section has been completed and received by the superintendent or public or private employer.

(H) A person, school district, educational service center, community school, nonpublic school, or other public or nonpublic entity that owns a school bus or motor van, or that contracts with another entity to operate a school bus or motor van, may impose more stringent restrictions on drivers than those prescribed in this section, in any other section of the Revised Code, and in rules adopted by the department.

(I) For qualified drivers who, on July 1, 2007, are employed by the owner of a school bus or motor van to drive the school bus or motor van, any instance in which the driver was convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of section 4511.19 of the Revised Code or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance prior to two years prior to July 1, 2007, shall not be considered a disqualifying event with respect to division (F) of this section.

(J)(1) This division applies to persons hired by a school district, educational service center, community school, chartered nonpublic school, or science, technology, engineering, and mathematics school established under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code to operate a vehicle used for pupil transportation.

(a) For each person to whom this division applies who is hired on or after November 14, 2007, the employer shall request a criminal records check in accordance with section 3319.39 of the Revised Code and every six years thereafter.

(b) For each person to whom this division applies who is hired prior to November 14, 2007, the employer shall request a criminal records check by a date prescribed by the department and every six years thereafter.

(c) If, on ~~the effective date of this amendment~~ October 3, 2023, the most recent criminal records check requested for a person to whom division (J)(1) of this section applies was completed more than one year prior to that date or does not include information gathered pursuant to division (A) of section 109.57 of the Revised Code, the employer shall request a new criminal records check that includes information gathered pursuant to division (A) of section 109.57 of the Revised Code by a date prescribed by the state board of education and every six years thereafter.

(2) This division applies to persons hired by a public or private employer not described in division (J)(1) of this section to operate a vehicle used for pupil transportation.

(a) For each person to whom this division applies who is hired on or after November 14, 2007, the employer shall request a criminal records check prior to the person's hiring and every six years thereafter.

(b) For each person to whom this division applies who is hired prior to November 14, 2007, the employer shall request a criminal records check by a date prescribed by the department and every six years thereafter.

(c) If, on ~~the effective date of this amendment~~ October 3, 2023, the most recent criminal

records check requested for a person to whom division (J)(2) of this section applies was completed more than one year prior to that date or does not include information gathered pursuant to division (A) of section 109.57 of the Revised Code, the employer shall request a new criminal records check that includes information gathered pursuant to division (A) of section 109.57 of the Revised Code by a date prescribed by the state board and every six years thereafter.

(3) Each request for a criminal records check under division (J) of this section shall be made to the superintendent of the bureau of criminal identification and investigation in the manner prescribed in section 3319.39 of the Revised Code, except that if both of the following conditions apply to the person subject to the records check, the employer shall request the superintendent only to obtain any criminal records that the federal bureau of investigation has on the person:

(a) The employer previously requested the superintendent to determine whether the bureau of criminal identification and investigation has any information, gathered pursuant to division (A) of section 109.57 of the Revised Code, on the person in conjunction with a criminal records check requested under section 3319.39 of the Revised Code or under division (J) of this section.

(b) The person presents proof that the person has been a resident of this state for the five-year period immediately prior to the date upon which the person becomes subject to a criminal records check under this section.

Upon receipt of a request, the superintendent shall conduct the criminal records check in accordance with section 109.572 of the Revised Code as if the request had been made under section 3319.39 of the Revised Code. However, as specified in division (B)(2) of section 109.572 of the Revised Code, if the employer requests the superintendent only to obtain any criminal records that the federal bureau of investigation has on the person for whom the request is made, the superintendent shall not conduct the review prescribed by division (B)(1) of that section.

(4) Notwithstanding anything in the Revised Code to the contrary, the bureau of criminal identification and investigation shall make the initial criminal records check requested of a person by an employer under division (J)(1) or (2) of this section on or after ~~the effective date of this amendment~~ October 3, 2023, available to the state board of education. The state board shall use the information received to enroll the person in the retained applicant fingerprint database, established under section 109.5721 of the Revised Code, in the same manner as any teacher licensed under sections 3319.22 to 3319.31 of the Revised Code. If the state board is unable to enroll the person in the retained applicant fingerprint database because the person has not satisfied the requirements for enrollment, the state board shall notify the employer that the person has not satisfied the requirements for enrollment. However, the bureau shall not be required to make available to the state board the criminal records check of any person who is already enrolled in the retained applicant fingerprint database on the date the person's employer requests a records check of the person under division (J)(1) or (2) of this section.

If the state board receives notification of the arrest, guilty plea, or conviction of a person who is subject to this section, the state board shall promptly notify the person's employer in

accordance with division (B) of section 3319.316 of the Revised Code.

(K)(1) Until the effective date of the amendments to rule 3301-83-23 of the Ohio Administrative Code required by the second paragraph of division (E) of section 3319.39 of the Revised Code, any person who is the subject of a criminal records check under division (J) of this section and has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any offense described in division (B)(1) of section 3319.39 of the Revised Code shall not be hired or shall be released from employment, as applicable, unless the person meets the rehabilitation standards prescribed for nonlicensed school personnel by rule 3301-20-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

(2) Beginning on the effective date of the amendments to rule 3301-83-23 of the Ohio Administrative Code required by the second paragraph of division (E) of section 3319.39 of the Revised Code, any person who is the subject of a criminal records check under division (J) of this section and has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any offense that, under the rule, disqualifies a person for employment to operate a vehicle used for pupil transportation shall not be hired or shall be released from employment, as applicable, unless the person meets the rehabilitation standards prescribed by the rule.

(L) The superintendent of a school district or an educational service center governing board shall issue a certificate as a driver of a school bus or motor van or a certificate to operate a vehicle used for pupil transportation in accordance with Chapter 4796. of the Revised Code to an applicant if either of the following applies:

(1) The applicant holds a certificate in another state.

(2) The applicant has satisfactory work experience, a government certification, or a private certification as described in that chapter as a school bus or motor van driver or a pupil transportation vehicle operator in a state that does not issue one or both of those certificates.

(M) As used in this section, "school bus" includes a multifunction school activity bus, as defined in section 4511.01 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3328.16. (A) Each college-preparatory boarding school established under this chapter shall have a designated fiscal officer. ~~The auditor of state department of education and workforce~~ may require by rule that the fiscal officer of any college-preparatory boarding school, before entering upon duties as fiscal officer, execute a bond in an amount and with surety to be approved by the school's board of trustees, payable to the state, conditioned for the faithful performance of all the official duties required of the fiscal officer. Any such bond shall be deposited with the school's board of trustees, and a copy of the bond shall be certified by the board and filed with the county auditor.

(B) Before assuming the duties of fiscal officer, the fiscal officer designated under this section shall be licensed as a treasurer under section 3301.074 of the Revised Code. No college-preparatory boarding school shall allow a person to serve as fiscal officer who is not licensed as required by this division.

Sec. 3328.24. A college-preparatory boarding school established under this chapter and its board of trustees shall comply with sections 102.02, 3301.0710, 3301.0711, 3301.0712, 3301.0714,

3301.0729, 3301.948, 3302.037, 3313.474, 3313.5318, 3313.5319, 3313.6013, 3313.6021, 3313.6023, 3313.6024, 3313.6026, 3313.6029, 3313.6031, 3313.617, 3313.618, 3313.6114, 3313.6411, 3313.6413, 3313.668, 3313.669, 3313.6610, 3313.717, 3313.7112, 3313.7117, 3313.721, 3313.753, 3313.89, 3319.073, 3319.077, 3319.078, 3319.318, 3319.324, 3319.39, 3319.391, 3319.393, 3319.46, 3320.01, 3320.02, 3320.03, 3320.04, 3323.251, and 5502.262, and Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code as if the school were a school district and the school's board of trustees were a district board of education.

Sec. 3332.081. The student tuition recovery authority is created as a body corporate and politic of this state. The purpose of the authority is to protect students of any school registered by the state board of career colleges and schools from prepaid tuition loss for the academic term due to a school closure.

The authority shall consist of five members as follows: the executive director of the state board of career colleges and schools, the executive director of the Ohio association of career colleges and schools, the treasurer of state or the treasurer of state's designee, ~~the chairperson a member of the senate committee that primarily deals with education~~appointed by the president of the senate, and ~~the chairperson of the committee a member of the house of representatives that primarily deals with education~~appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. The ~~chairpersons of the legislative committees that primarily deal with education~~general assembly members shall be nonvoting ~~ex officio~~ members. Each voting member of the authority, before entering upon the member's official duties, shall take an oath as provided by Section 7 of Article XV, Ohio Constitution. The authority shall elect one of its voting members as chairperson and another as vice-chairperson, and shall appoint a secretary-treasurer who need not be a member of the authority.

All meetings of the authority shall be public. All final actions of the authority shall be journalized and such journal and the records of the authority shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable times.

Sec. 3332.17. Each college or school that holds a certificate of registration under this chapter annually shall certify to state board of career colleges and schools, on a date and in the form and manner determined by the state board, a plan to preserve student records indefinitely if the college or school is to cease operations. The plan shall include the designation and signed confirmation of an official custodian of student records. If the state board determines it necessary, the the state board may require a college or school to produce an executed agreement with the designated custodian of student records, paid in full, to ensure the college or school's plan can be implemented.

The director of the state board of career colleges and schools may consult with the chancellor of higher education, higher learning commission, and other appropriate entities to establish plans, processes, and procedures for colleges and schools to provide indefinite access to student records.

Sec. 3332.21. (A) Each school that holds a certificate of registration from or is authorized to offer a certificate, diploma, or degree under a certificate of authorization issued by the state board of

career colleges under this chapter annually shall provide to the state board and the chancellor of higher education all of the following:

(1) Verification of current accreditation status and a copy of the most recent institutional report from the school's accrediting organization;

(2) A plan to preserve student records indefinitely in the event of closure of the school or discontinuation of service. The plan shall include a method by which students and alumni of the school may retrieve student records by request. The plan also shall include a designation and signed confirmation of an official custodian of student records. Student records preserved under the plan shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Academic transcripts;

(b) Financial aid documents;

(c) International student forms;

(d) Tax information.

(3) The following program information:

(a) A list of current degree programs offered by the school in this state;

(b) The results of any external degree program evaluations conducted in the last year;

(c) A list of any degree programs that have been eliminated in the last year;

(4) The latest financial statement for the most recent fiscal year compiled and audited by an independent certified public accountant, including any management letters provided by the independent auditor;

(5) Any other information requested by the state board or the chancellor.

(B) If a school fails to submit the information required under division (A) of this section or if the state board or the chancellor finds that the information submitted under that division is insufficient, the state board may suspend, withdraw, or revoke a school's certificate of registration or program authorization.

(C) Each school subject to this chapter that is authorized to offer courses or degrees under a certificate of authorization shall immediately notify the state board and the chancellor if the school does any of the following:

(1) Receives notice from the federal government or an institutional accrediting organization that the school is subject to heightened reporting standards or special monitoring status, such as the United States department of education's heightened cash monitoring process;

(2) Receives preliminary or final accreditation findings;

(3) Becomes the subject of an investigation by a government agency related to the school's academic quality, financial stability, or student consumer protection;

(4) Fails to make any payments to applicable retirement systems;

(5) Fails to make any scheduled payroll payments;

(6) Fails to make any payments to vendors when due as a result of a cash deficiency or a substantial deficiency in the payment processing system of the school;

(7) Fails to make any scheduled payment of principal or interest for short- or long-term debt;

(8) Makes budget revisions resulting in a substantially reduced ending fund balance or larger deficit;

(9) Becomes aware of significant negative variance between the most recently adopted annual budget and actual revenues or expenses as projected at the end of the fiscal year.

(D) A document received by the state board or the chancellor under division (C)(1), (2), or (3) of this section that is confidential under federal law is not subject to release under a public records request until such time as the document is released publicly by the appropriate entity. Further, financial documentation of the school received by the state board or the chancellor under this section is not a public record under section 149.43 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3332.22. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Online program manager" means an entity that is not an institution of higher education as defined under "The Higher Education Act of 1965," 20 U.S.C. 1001 that enters into an agreement with a career college or school to provide marketing and recruitment services and at least one additional service, including course design, technology, or faculty training, to support an accredited online degree program.

(2) "Career college or school" means a school subject to this chapter and a private institution exempt from regulation under this chapter as prescribed in section 3333.046 of the Revised Code, if the institution has a program with a certificate of authorization pursuant to Chapter 1713. of the Revised Code.

(B) If a career college or school enters into a contract with an online program manager, the career college or school shall ensure the contract is in compliance with relevant program standards and requirements.

(C) A career college or school that enters into a contract with an online program manager shall post on each online degree program web site it maintains that it utilizes an online program manager for services. The career college or school shall require the online program manager to identify itself when providing services to students.

(D) A career college or school shall not permit an online program manager to control, make decisions regarding, administer, or disburse student financial aid.

Sec. 3333.04. The chancellor of higher education shall:

(A) Make studies of state policy in the field of higher education and formulate a master plan for higher education for the state, considering the needs of the people, the needs of the state, and the role of individual public and private institutions within the state in fulfilling these needs;

(B)(1) Report annually to the governor and the general assembly on the findings from the chancellor's studies and the master plan for higher education for the state;

(2) Report at least semiannually to the general assembly and the governor the enrollment numbers at each state-assisted institution of higher education.

(C) Approve or disapprove the establishment of new branches or academic centers of state

colleges and universities;

(D) Approve or disapprove the establishment of state technical colleges or any other state institution of higher education;

(E) Recommend the nature of the programs, undergraduate, graduate, professional, state-financed research, and public services which should be offered by the state colleges, universities, and other state-assisted institutions of higher education in order to utilize to the best advantage their facilities and personnel;

(F) Recommend to the state colleges, universities, and other state-assisted institutions of higher education graduate or professional programs, including, but not limited to, doctor of philosophy, doctor of education, and juris doctor programs, that could be eliminated because they constitute unnecessary duplication, as shall be determined using the process developed pursuant to this division, or for other good and sufficient cause. Prior to recommending a program for elimination, the chancellor shall hold at least one public hearing on the matter to determine whether the program should be recommended for elimination. The chancellor shall provide notice of each hearing within a reasonable amount of time prior to its scheduled date.

For purposes of determining the amounts of any state instructional subsidies paid to state colleges, universities, and other state-assisted institutions of higher education, the chancellor may exclude students enrolled in any program that the chancellor has recommended for elimination pursuant to this division except that the chancellor shall not exclude any such student who enrolled in the program prior to the date on which the chancellor initially commences to exclude students under this division.

The chancellor and state colleges, universities, and other state-assisted institutions of higher education shall jointly develop a process for determining which existing graduate or professional programs constitute unnecessary duplication.

(G) Recommend to the state colleges, universities, and other state-assisted institutions of higher education programs which should be added to their present programs;

(H) Conduct studies for the state colleges, universities, and other state-assisted institutions of higher education to assist them in making the best and most efficient use of their existing facilities and personnel;

(I) Make recommendations to the governor and general assembly concerning the development of state-financed capital plans for higher education; the establishment of new state colleges, universities, and other state-assisted institutions of higher education; and the establishment of new programs at the existing state colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education;

(J) Review the appropriation requests of the public community colleges and the state colleges and universities and submit to the office of budget and management and to the chairpersons of the finance committees of the house of representatives and of the senate the chancellor's recommendations in regard to the biennial higher education appropriation for the state, including

appropriations for the individual state colleges and universities and public community colleges. For the purpose of determining the amounts of instructional subsidies to be paid to state-assisted colleges and universities, the chancellor shall define "full-time equivalent student" by program per academic year. The definition may take into account the establishment of minimum enrollment levels in technical education programs below which support allowances will not be paid. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the chancellor shall make no change in the definition of "full-time equivalent student" in effect on November 15, 1981, which would increase or decrease the number of subsidy-eligible full-time equivalent students, without first submitting a fiscal impact statement to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the legislative service commission, and the director of budget and management. The chancellor shall work in close cooperation with the director of budget and management in this respect and in all other matters concerning the expenditures of appropriated funds by state colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education.

(K) Seek the cooperation and advice of the officers and trustees of both public and private colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education in the state in performing the chancellor's duties and making the chancellor's plans, studies, and recommendations;

(L) Appoint advisory committees consisting of persons associated with public or private secondary schools, members of the state board of education, or personnel of the department of education and workforce;

(M) Appoint advisory committees consisting of college and university personnel, or other persons knowledgeable in the field of higher education, or both, in order to obtain their advice and assistance in defining and suggesting solutions for the problems and needs of higher education in this state;

(N) Approve or disapprove all new degrees and new degree programs at all state colleges, universities, and other state-assisted institutions of higher education.

When considering approval of a new degree or degree program for a state institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, the chancellor shall take into account the extent to which the degree or degree program aligns with the state's workforce development priorities.

(O) Adopt such rules as are necessary to carry out the chancellor's duties and responsibilities. The rules shall prescribe procedures for the chancellor to follow when taking actions associated with the chancellor's duties and responsibilities and shall indicate which types of actions are subject to those procedures. The procedures adopted under this division shall be in addition to any other procedures prescribed by law for such actions. However, if any other provision of the Revised Code or rule adopted by the chancellor prescribes different procedures for such an action, the procedures adopted under this division shall not apply to that action to the extent they conflict with the procedures otherwise prescribed by law. The procedures adopted under this division shall include at least the following:

- (1) Provision for public notice of the proposed action;
 - (2) An opportunity for public comment on the proposed action, which may include a public hearing on the action by the chancellor;
 - (3) Methods for parties that may be affected by the proposed action to submit comments during the public comment period;
 - (4) Written publication of the final action taken by the chancellor and the chancellor's rationale for the action;
 - (5) A timeline for the process described in divisions (O)(1) to (4) of this section.
- (P) Make recommendations to the governor and the general assembly regarding the design and funding of the student financial aid programs specified in sections 3333.122, 3333.21 to 3333.26, and 5910.02 of the Revised Code;
- (Q) Participate in education-related state or federal programs on behalf of the state and assume responsibility for the administration of such programs in accordance with applicable state or federal law;
- (R) Adopt rules for student financial aid programs as required by sections 3333.122, 3333.21 to 3333.26, 3333.28, and 5910.02 of the Revised Code, and perform any other administrative functions assigned to the chancellor by those sections;
- (S) Conduct enrollment audits of state-supported institutions of higher education;
- (T) Appoint consortia of college and university personnel to advise or participate in the development and operation of statewide collaborative efforts, including the Ohio supercomputer center, the Ohio academic resources network, OhioLink, and the Ohio learning network. For each consortium, the chancellor shall designate a college or university to serve as that consortium's fiscal agent, financial officer, and employer. Any funds appropriated for the consortia shall be distributed to the fiscal agents for the operation of the consortia. ~~A consortium shall follow the rules of the college or university that serves as its fiscal agent.~~ The chancellor may restructure existing consortia, appointed under this division, in accordance with procedures adopted under divisions (O)(1) to (5) of this section.
- A consortium shall follow the rules of the college or university that serves as its fiscal agent, except that when making a purchase with appropriated funds of any product that includes semiconductors, a consortium shall conduct the purchase in accordance with rules adopted by the director of administrative services under division (B) of section 125.09 of the Revised Code for giving preference to Buy Ohio products.
- (U) Adopt rules establishing advisory duties and responsibilities of the department of higher education not otherwise prescribed by law;
- (V) Respond to requests for information about higher education from members of the general assembly and direct staff to conduct research or analysis as needed for this purpose.
- Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, and to reduce duplicative reporting, the chancellor may use data or information submitted to the higher education information system

and other public data exchanges, as determined appropriate, to fulfill reporting requirements, provided the information is materially consistent.

Sec. 3333.041. (A) On or before the last day of December of each year, the chancellor of higher education shall submit to the governor and, in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code, the general assembly a report or reports concerning all of the following:

(1) The status of graduates of Ohio school districts at state institutions of higher education during the twelve-month period ending on the thirtieth day of September of the current calendar year. The report shall list, by school district, the number of graduates of each school district who attended a state institution of higher education and the percentage of each district's graduates enrolled in a state institution of higher education during the reporting period who were required during such period by the college or university, as a prerequisite to enrolling in those courses generally required for first-year students, to enroll in a remedial course in English, including composition or reading, mathematics, and any other area designated by the chancellor. The chancellor also shall make the information described in division (A)(1) of this section available to the board of education of each city, exempted village, and local school district.

Each state institution of higher education shall, by the first day of November of each year, submit to the chancellor in the form specified by the chancellor the information the chancellor requires to compile the report.

(2) The following information with respect to the Ohio tuition trust authority:

(a) The name of each investment manager that is a minority business enterprise or a women's business enterprise with which the chancellor contracts;

(b) The amount of assets managed by investment managers that are minority business enterprises or women's business enterprises, expressed as a percentage of assets managed by investment managers with which the chancellor has contracted;

(c) Efforts by the chancellor to increase utilization of investment managers that are minority business enterprises or women's business enterprises.

(3) The chancellor's strategy in assigning choose Ohio first scholarships, as established under section 3333.61 of the Revised Code, among state universities and colleges and how the actual awards fit that strategy.

~~(4) The academic and economic impact of the Ohio co-op/internship program established under section 3333.72 of the Revised Code. At a minimum, the report shall include the following:~~

~~(a) Progress and performance metrics for each initiative that received an award in the previous fiscal year;~~

~~(b) Economic indicators of the impact of each initiative, and all initiatives as a whole, on the regional economies and the statewide economy;~~

~~(c) The chancellor's strategy in allocating awards among state institutions of higher education and how the actual awards fit that strategy.~~

(B) On or before the fifteenth day of February of each year, the chancellor shall submit to

the governor and, in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code, the general assembly a report concerning aggregate academic growth data for students assigned to graduates of teacher preparation programs approved under section 3333.048 of the Revised Code who teach English language arts or mathematics in any of grades four to eight in a public school in Ohio. For this purpose, the chancellor shall use the value-added progress dimension prescribed by section 3302.021 of the Revised Code or the alternative student academic progress measure if adopted under division (C)(1)(c) of section 3302.03 of the Revised Code. The chancellor shall aggregate the data by graduating class for each approved teacher preparation program, except that if a particular class has ten or fewer graduates to which this division applies, the chancellor shall report the data for a group of classes over a three-year period. In no case shall the report identify any individual graduate. The department of education and workforce shall share any data necessary for the report with the chancellor.

(C) As used in this section:

(1) "Minority business enterprise" has the same meaning as in section 122.71 of the Revised Code.

(2) "State institution of higher education" and "state university" have the same meanings as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.

(3) "State university or college" has the same meaning as in section 3345.12 of the Revised Code.

(4) "Women's business enterprise" means a business, or a partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or joint venture of any kind, that is owned and controlled by women who are United States citizens and residents of this state.

Sec. 3333.0415. Not later than December 31, 2025, the chancellor of higher education, in collaboration with the department of education and workforce and the governor's office of workforce transformation, shall establish the level of attainment necessary to achieve identified performance targets across a range of degrees and credentials.

Sec. 3333.0420. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Online program manager" means an entity that is not an institution of higher education as defined under "The Higher Education Act of 1965," 20 U.S.C. 1001 that enters into an agreement with a state institution of higher education to provide marketing and recruitment services and at least one additional service, including course design, technology, or faculty training, to support an accredited online degree program.

(2) "State institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.

(B) If a state institution of higher education enters into a contract with an online program manager, the institution shall ensure the contract is in compliance with relevant program standards and requirements.

(C) A state institution of higher education that enters into a contract with an online program

manager shall post on each online degree program web site it maintains that it utilizes an online program manager for services. The institution shall require the online program manager to identify itself when providing services to students.

(D) A state institution of higher education shall not permit an online program manager to control, make decisions regarding, administer, or disburse student financial aid.

Sec. 3333.053. The chancellor of higher education shall serve indefinitely as the records custodian for the eastern gateway community college upon that college ceasing operations. However, the chancellor may enter into an agreement authorizing a third party to serve as the records custodian in the chancellor's place.

Sec. 3333.074. (A) Each state institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, annually shall submit, in a form and manner determined by the chancellor of higher education, the following information to assess the performance and compliance of the state institution:

(1) Verification of current accreditation status and a copy of the state institution's most recent higher learning commission institutional update report;

(2) A plan to preserve student records indefinitely in the event of closure of the state institution or discontinuation of service. The plan shall include a method by which students and alumni of the state institution may retrieve student records by request. The plan shall also include a designation and signed confirmation of an official custodian of student records. Student records preserved under the plan shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Academic transcripts;

(b) Financial aid documents;

(c) International student forms;

(d) Tax information.

(3) The results of any external degree program evaluations conducted in the last year;

(4) A list of any degree programs that have been eliminated in the last year;

(5) Any other information requested by the chancellor.

(B) The chancellor may rescind program approval if a state institution of higher education fails to submit the information required under division (A) of this section or if the chancellor finds that the information submitted under that division is insufficient.

(C) Each state institution of higher education shall immediately inform the chancellor if the state institution does any of the following:

(1) Receives notice from the federal government or an institutional accrediting organization that the state institution is subject to heightened reporting standards or special monitoring status, such as the United States department of education's heightened cash monitoring process;

(2) Receives preliminary or final accreditation findings;

(3) Becomes the subject of an investigation by a government agency related to the institution's academic quality, financial stability, or student consumer protection;

- (4) Requests an advance of a state subsidy;
- (5) Fails to make any payments to applicable retirement systems, such as the public employees retirement system or the state teachers retirement system;
- (6) Fails to make any scheduled payroll payments;
- (7) Fails to make any payments to vendors when due as a result of a cash deficiency or a substantial deficiency in the payment processing system of the state institution;
- (8) Fails to make any scheduled payment of principal or interest for short- or long-term debt;
- (9) Makes budget revisions resulting in a substantially reduced ending fund balance or larger deficit;
- (10) Becomes aware of significant negative variance between the most recently adopted annual budget and actual revenues or expenses as projected at the end of the fiscal year.

(D) A document received by the chancellor under division (C)(1), (2), or (3) of this section that is confidential under federal law is not subject to release under a public record request until such time as the document is released publicly by the appropriate entity.

Sec. 3333.129. (A) The "Teach CS" grant program is established to ~~fund coursework, materials, and exams to support the increasing~~ the number of existing Ohio teachers who qualify to teach computer science, or expand the knowledge of existing teachers, through all of the following:

- (1) A supplemental license that involves a mentorship-based pathway for existing teachers;
- (2) A university endorsement program that involves a coursework-based path for existing teachers;
- (3) An alternative resident educator licensure pathway for industry experts and other nonteachers;
- (4) A continuing education program that offers professional development to existing teachers, including those that teach pre-kindergarten to twelve who are generalists and those seeking advanced content knowledge.

The chancellor of higher education shall administer the program. Funds may be spent on coursework, materials, exams, teacher stipends, performance-based incentives, and for other purposes as determined by the chancellor to support the expansion of computer science education.

(B) The chancellor, in consultation with the department of education and workforce, shall develop an application process and criteria for awards. Priority may be given to education consortia that include economically disadvantaged schools in which there are limited computer science courses offered or where there is an unmet need for teachers credentialed to teach computer science courses, as determined by the chancellor.

Sec. 3333.1210. Beginning with first-time scholarships awarded for fiscal year 2027, each student who accepts a scholarship under the governor's merit scholarship program shall sign a statement of commitment to reside in this state for the three years immediately following the individual's graduation from an institution of higher education in this state.

Sec. 3333.13. As used in sections 3333.13 to 3333.137 of the Revised Code, "employed as a

service attorney" means ~~either any~~ of the following:

(A) An attorney who works a minimum of thirty-five hours per week for a minimum of forty-five weeks each service year and who is employed by any of the following:

- (1) The state public defender;
- (2) The prosecuting attorney of a county;
- (3) A county public defender commission;
- (4) A joint county public defender commission to represent indigent persons.

(B) Counsel appointed by the court or selected by an indigent person under division (E) of section 120.16 or division (E) of section 120.26 of the Revised Code, who works in an area designated as an underserved community under section 3333.132 of the Revised Code for a minimum of five hundred twenty hours each service year.

(C) An attorney engaged in the private practice of law, who practices civil law, and who works in an area designated as an underserved community under section 3333.132 of the Revised Code for a minimum of five hundred twenty hours each service year.

Sec. 3333.131. There is hereby created the rural practice incentive program, which shall be administered by the chancellor of higher education. The purpose of the program is to provide loan repayment on behalf of attorneys who agree to employment or practice as service attorneys in areas designated as underserved communities by the chancellor pursuant to section 3333.132 of the Revised Code.

Under the program, the chancellor, ~~by means of a contract entered into under section 3333.135 of the Revised Code,~~ may agree to repay up to the amount set pursuant to section 3333.135 of the Revised Code of the principal and interest of a government or other educational loan taken by an individual for the following expenses, so long as the expenses were incurred while the individual was enrolled in a law school ~~in the United States that was, during the time enrolled, accredited by the American bar association, or a law school located outside the United States for which the individual received a foreign equivalency evaluation~~ that meets accreditation standards established by the Ohio supreme court:

(A) Tuition;

(B) Other educational expenses, such as fees, books, and expenses, for specific purposes and in amounts determined to be reasonable by the chancellor;

(C) Room and board, in an amount determined reasonable by the chancellor.

Sec. 3333.132. Each biennium, the chancellor of higher education shall designate by rule any county with a ratio of attorneys maintaining interest-bearing trust accounts pursuant to section 4705.09 of the Revised Code to the population in the county equal to or less than one to ~~seven~~ fifteen hundred as an underserved community. The Ohio access to justice foundation, pursuant to division (A) of section 120.521 of the Revised Code, shall assist the chancellor by determining the ratio described in this section.

Sec. 3333.133. (A) An individual who meets all of the following requirements may apply for

participation in the rural practice incentive program:

(1) The individual is a citizen of the United States, a national of the United States, or a permanent resident of the United States.

(2) The individual either:

(a) Is a student enrolled in the final year of law school; or

(b) Has been admitted to the practice of law in this state by the Ohio supreme court for less than ~~eight~~ twelve years and remains in good standing.

(3) The individual is not enrolled in ~~any other state or federally funded student loan repayment or debt forgiveness program, including under the~~ public service loan forgiveness program, 34 C.F.R. 685.219, or the "John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2008," 34 U.S.C. 10671 et seq.

(B) An application for participation in the rural practice incentive program shall be submitted to the chancellor of higher education on a form that the chancellor shall prescribe. The individual shall submit the following information with an application:

(1) The individual's name, permanent address or address at which the individual is currently residing if different from the permanent address, and telephone number;

(2) The law school the individual is attending or attended, the dates of attendance, and verification of attendance;

(3) The individual's employer, as applicable;

(4) A summary and verification of the educational expenses for which the individual seeks reimbursement under the program;

(5) Verification that the individual has been admitted to the practice of law in this state for less than eight years by the Ohio supreme court and remains in good standing, unless the individual is a student;

(6) Verification the individual is a citizen of the United States, a national of the United States, or a permanent resident of the United States.

Sec. 3333.134. If funds are available in the rural practice incentive fund created under section 3333.136 of the Revised Code and the general assembly has appropriated funds for the rural practice incentive program, the chancellor of higher education shall approve an individual for participation in the program, for reimbursement up to fifty thousand dollars, if the chancellor finds that the individual is eligible for participation in the program.

Upon approval, the chancellor shall notify and enter into discussions with the individual. The object of the discussions is to facilitate the recruitment of the individual to become or remain employed as a service attorney within an underserved community.

If the chancellor and individual agree on the individual's employment as a service attorney within an underserved community, the individual shall prepare, sign, and deliver to the chancellor a letter of intent agreeing to that placement.

~~The chancellor shall approve individuals for participation in the rural practice incentive~~

program in a manner proportionate to the number of each of the following types of attorneys who apply to the program, with an aim toward disbursing loan repayments equitably among each type:

- (A) Attorneys employed by the prosecuting attorney of a county;
- (B) Attorneys employed by the state public defender, a county public defender commission, or a joint county public defender commission to represent indigent persons;
- (C) Attorneys described in division (B) of section 3333.13 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3333.135. (A) After signing a letter of intent under section 3333.134 of the Revised Code, an individual ~~and the chancellor of higher education may enter into a contract for the individual's participation in the rural practice incentive program. The individual's employer also may be a party to the contract~~ shall sign a promissory note payable to the state in the event that the individual does not satisfy the service obligation of division (B) of this section and as outlined in the note. The amount payable under the note shall be the amount corresponding to the agreed upon service obligation as outlined in division (C) of this section.

(B) ~~The contract individual~~ shall include all of the following obligations:

(1) ~~The individual agrees to remain employed as a service attorney within the underserved community identified in the letter of intent for the number of hours and duration specified in the contract~~ promissory note;

(2)(C) The chancellor ~~agrees~~ shall agree, as provided in section 3333.131 of the Revised Code, to repay, so long as the individual satisfies the service obligation agreed to under division (B) ~~(1)~~ of this section, the following amount of the principal and interest of a government or other educational loan taken by the individual for expenses described in section 3333.131 of the Revised Code:

(a)(1) For a three-year service obligation, up to thirty thousand dollars;

(b)(2) For an additional fourth or fifth year of service, up to an additional twenty thousand dollars.

(3) ~~The individual agrees to pay the chancellor an amount established by rules adopted under section 3333.137 of the Revised Code if the individual fails to complete the service obligation agreed to under division (B)(1) of this section.~~

(C)(D) ~~The contract promissory note~~ shall include the following terms as agreed upon by the parties prescribed by the chancellor, including:

(1) The individual's required length of service in the underserved community, which must be at least three years with an optional fourth year and optional fifth year;

(2)(a) ~~In the case of an attorney employed by the state public defender, the prosecuting attorney of a county, a county public defender commission, or a joint county public defender commission, the number of weekly hours the individual will be engaged in practice in the underserved community;~~

(b) ~~In the case of private counsel appointed by the court or selected by an indigent person pursuant to Chapter 120. of the Revised Code, the number of hours over the service year the~~

~~individual will be engaged in practice in the underserved community.~~

(3) The maximum amount that the chancellor will repay on behalf of the individual.

~~(D)(E)~~ If the amount specified in division ~~(C)(3)(D)(2)~~ of this section includes federal funds, the amount of state funds repaid on the individual's behalf shall be the same as the amount of those federal funds.

Sec. 3333.164. (A) As used in this section, ~~"state~~:

(1) "Armed forces" has the same meaning as in section 3313.471 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Private institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in section 5919.34 of the Revised Code.

(3) "State institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.

~~(B) Not later than December 31, 2014, the~~ The chancellor of higher education shall do all of the following with regard to the awarding of college credit for military training, experience, and coursework:

(1) Develop a set of standards and procedures for state institutions of higher education to utilize in the granting of college credit for military training, experience, and coursework;

(2) Create a military articulation and transfer assurance guide for college credit that is earned through military training, experience, and coursework. The chancellor shall use the current articulation and transfer policy adopted pursuant to section 3333.16 of the Revised Code as a model in developing this guide.

(3) Create a web site that contains information related to the awarding of college credit for military training, experience, and coursework. The web site shall include both of the following:

(a) Standardized resources that address frequently asked questions regarding the awarding of such credit and related issues;

(b) A statewide database that shows how specified military training, experience, and coursework translates to college credit.

(4) Develop a statewide training program that prepares faculty and staff of state institutions of higher education to evaluate various military training, experience, and coursework and to award appropriate equivalent credit. The training program shall incorporate the best practices of awarding credit for military experiences, including both the recommendations of the American council on education and the standards developed by the council for adult and experiential learning.

~~(C) Beginning on July 1, 2015, state~~ State institutions of higher education shall ensure that appropriate equivalent credit is awarded for military training, experience, and coursework that meet the standards developed by the chancellor pursuant to this section.

(D) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the chancellor may require a state institution of higher education or a private institution of higher education to establish a process to systematically evaluate military training, experience, and coursework and to award appropriate equivalent college credit to a student who is a veteran of the armed forces. The chancellor may adopt

rules to implement this division.

Sec. 3333.24. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Eligible student" means a student to whom all of the following apply:

(a) The student is a resident of this state under rules adopted by the chancellor of higher education under section 3333.31 of the Revised Code.

(b) The student has completed a free application for federal student aid for the year for which the grant is to be awarded.

(c) The student enrolls in a qualified program at a community, state community, or technical college, an Ohio technical center, or a state university branch campus.

(2) "Qualified program" means either of the following:

(a) For a student who received a first-time grant under this section prior to the effective date of this amendment, a credit or noncredit program that leads to an industry-recognized credential, certificate, or degree and prepares the student for a job that meets either of the following criteria:

~~(a)~~(i) It is identified as an "in-demand" or "critical" job as determined by the office of workforce transformation.

~~(b)~~(ii) It is submitted by a community, state community, or technical college, an Ohio technical center, or a state university branch campus and will meet regional workforce needs, as approved by the chancellor.

(b) For a student who receives a first-time grant under this section on or after the effective date of this amendment, a program that meets alternative criteria established by the chancellor of higher education, in consultation with the office of workforce transformation, based on the emerging workforce needs of the state.

(B) The chancellor of higher education shall establish the Ohio work ready grant program. Under the program, the chancellor shall award a grant of up to three thousand dollars to eligible students enrolled in a qualified program. Grant award amounts made to eligible students enrolled on either a full-time or part-time basis shall be computed in accordance with rules adopted by the chancellor. No student shall be eligible to receive a grant for more than six semesters or the equivalent of three academic years.

(C) Eligible students shall apply to participate in the program in a form and manner prescribed by the chancellor. The chancellor shall determine the form and manner of payments.

(D)(1) The program shall be funded in the sums and manner designated for such purpose by the general assembly, but the chancellor also may receive funds from other sources to support the program.

(2) If, for any academic year, the amounts available for support of the program are inadequate to provide grants to all eligible students, the chancellor may establish different grant amounts based on the number of applicants and the total amount of funds set aside for that purpose.

(E) The chancellor, in consultation with the providers of qualified programs, shall collect and report program metrics that include all of the following:

- (1) Demographics of recipients, including:
 - (a) Age, disaggregated as follows:
 - (i) Twenty-four years and younger;
 - (ii) Twenty-five to thirty-four years;
 - (iii) Thirty-five to forty-nine years;
 - (iv) Fifty years and older.
 - (b) Gender;
 - (c) Race and ethnicity;
 - (d) Enrollment status as full- or part-time;
 - (e) Pell grant status.
- (2) Success rates of recipients, including program retention and completion;
- (3) Total number of industry-recognized credentials, including technician-aligned associate degrees, awarded, disaggregated by subject or program area.

Sec. 3333.374. (A) ~~After receipt of recommendations from the scholarship rules advisory committee or if no recommendations are received, the~~ The chancellor of higher education, with the approval of the treasurer of state, shall adopt rules, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, establishing policy guidelines for the implementation of the scholarship and fellowship programs.

(B) Nothing in this section ~~or section 3333.373 of the Revised Code~~ shall prevent the chancellor, with the approval of the treasurer of state, from amending or rescinding rules adopted pursuant to division (A) of this section, or from adopting new rules, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, from time to time as are necessary to further the purposes of sections 3333.37 to 3333.375 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3333.952. (A) The chancellor of higher education, in collaboration with the department of education and workforce, the department of job and family services, the inter-university council, the association of independent colleges and universities, and any other relevant entities, shall establish the public policy research consortium on higher education. The consortium shall develop and maintain a biennial statewide research agenda that identifies key policy challenges and research priorities crucial to the state's future, drawing on input from policymakers, practitioners, and community stakeholders. The goals of the statewide research agenda shall be to do all of the following:

(1) Provide policymakers and practitioners with timely, relevant, and rigorous research findings on problems of significant importance to the state's citizens, enabling informed decision-making and effective policies;

(2) Increase the active engagement of the state's higher education institutions in addressing real-world issues of direct relevance to the state's social, economic, and civic well-being, fostering a stronger connection between academia and public service;

(3) Cultivate the next generation of policy-focused researchers and practitioners by

providing valuable research opportunities to faculty and post-graduate students.

(B) The chancellor shall do all of the following:

(1) Award competitive research grants to faculty and post-graduate students whose research aligns with the biennial research agenda established under division (A) of this section. Grants shall be awarded in a tiered structure based on project scope and complexity. A grant award shall not exceed ten thousand dollars. Fifty per cent of funding shall be disbursed upon grant approval, with the remaining balance released upon successful completion of the research and submission of the final report.

(2) Establish a clear rubric to evaluate proposed research projects that contains a peer-reviewed process, involving both academic experts and relevant practitioners;

(3) Manage the grant process and disseminate research findings through the department's web site, policy briefs, annual presentations to the standing committees of each house of the general assembly that consider higher education legislation, and community forums.

Sec. 3333.96. (A) The strategic square footage reduction fund is created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of money credited or transferred to it and grants, gifts, and contributions made directly to it. In addition to any such money, gift, or contribution, funds may be transferred from the Ohio tuition trust reserve fund to the strategic square footage reduction fund, in accordance with section 3334.11 of the Revised Code.

(B) The strategic square footage reduction fund shall be used to make revolving loans to state institutions of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, that enable the voluntary reduction of physical square footage.

(C) The chancellor of higher education shall administer and award, in consultation with the Ohio facilities construction commission, the revolving loans described in division (B) of this section. The chancellor, in consultation with the commission, shall establish all of the following:

(1) Procedures and forms by which state institutions of higher education may apply for a loan;

(2) A competitive process for ranking applicants and awarding the loans, with priority consideration given to state institutions of higher education that have experienced a decrease in their general student populations, as determined by the chancellor;

(3) Procedures and timelines for distributing loans and collecting payments for the strategic square footage reduction fund.

(D) Each state institution of higher education shall include in its application all of the following:

(1) The extent to which the square footage may have value if sold or reallocated to serve other purposes, which may include kindergarten through twelve, career-technical, or adult educational purposes, community interests, or business and industry partnerships;

(2) The relative age and condition of the facilities to be deconstructed;

(3) Historical enrollment patterns as well as future enrollment projections;

The above boxed and initialed text was disapproved.

Date 6/30/25

Mike DeWine

- (4) The composition of classes offered in person versus in an online format;
- (5) The level of deferred maintenance;
- (6) The prior level of state investment;
- (7) The amount of annual operating expenses defrayed by eliminating the square footage;
- (8) A report from the office of budget and management detailing the extent and the status of past capital budget appropriations supporting the project and the existence of any outstanding bonded debt derived from such support.

The chancellor and the Ohio facilities construction commission shall consider the information supplied under this division in making final awards.

(E) Each state institution of higher education that receives a loan under this section annually shall certify to the chancellor, on a date and in such form and manner as prescribed by the chancellor, a summary of financial information regarding the loan.

(F) Prior to a state institution using the loan to pay the demolition costs of a facility, the following shall occur:

- (1) The board of trustees of that institution shall adopt a resolution approving the demolition.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Revised Code, any net proceeds received from any demolition of real property made pursuant to this section shall, at the direction of the director of budget and management, be credited to the strategic square footage reduction fund.

(G) Each state institution of higher education receiving loans under this section shall not construct any new facility during the time period in which demolition is occurring.

Sec. 3333.97. (A) As used in this section, "state institution of higher education" and "state university" have the same meanings as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.

(B) The chancellor of higher education shall do all of the following:

(1) Determine and provide the criteria for approving accelerated ninety-hour degree programs established under the accelerated college and career pathways program established under section 3345.89 of the Revised Code;

(2) Provide technical assistance to each state university during the development of accelerated ninety-hour degree programs and aligned model college credit plus pathways as required under section 3345.89 of the Revised Code;

(3) Identify how students can count credit earned in high school, a nontraditional training program, another state institution of higher education, or work experiences as part of the ninety-hour degree programs at a state university. Each state university shall accept credit from incoming students that meet the criteria under this division.

(4) Annually publish on the chancellor's web site all of the following:

- (a) Each ninety-hour degree program offered by a state university;
- (b) The number of students participating in each ninety-hour degree program;
- (c) The number of students that complete each ninety-hour degree program;
- (d) Any additional information as determined by the chancellor.

Sec. 3334.11. (A) The assets of the Ohio tuition trust authority reserved for payment of the obligations of the authority pursuant to tuition payment contracts shall be placed in a fund, which is hereby created and shall be known as the Ohio tuition trust fund. The fund shall be in the custody of the treasurer of state, but shall not be part of the state treasury. That portion of payments received by the authority or the treasurer of state from persons purchasing tuition units under tuition payment contracts that the authority determines is actuarially necessary for the payment of obligations of the authority pursuant to tuition payment contracts, all interest and investment income earned by the fund, and all other receipts of the authority from any other source that the authority determines appropriate, shall be deposited in the fund. No purchaser or beneficiary of tuition units shall have any claim against the funds of any state institution of higher education. All investment fees and other costs incurred in connection with the exercise of the investment powers of the authority pursuant to divisions (D) and (E) of this section shall be paid from the assets of the fund.

(B) Unless otherwise provided by the authority, the assets of the Ohio tuition trust fund shall be expended in the following order:

(1) To make payments to beneficiaries, or institutions of higher education on behalf of beneficiaries, under division (B) of section 3334.09 of the Revised Code;

(2) To make refunds as provided in divisions (A) and (C) of section 3334.10 of the Revised Code;

(3) To pay the investment fees and other costs of administering the fund.

(C)(1) Except as may be provided in an agreement under division (A)(19) of section 3334.08 of the Revised Code, all disbursements from the Ohio tuition trust fund shall be made by the treasurer of state on order of a designee of the authority.

(2) The treasurer of state shall deposit any portion of the Ohio tuition trust fund not needed for immediate use in the same manner as state funds are deposited.

(D) The authority is the trustee of the Ohio tuition trust fund. The authority shall have full power to invest the assets of the fund and in exercising this power shall be subject to the limitations and requirements contained in divisions (K) to (M) of this section and sections 145.112 and 145.113 of the Revised Code. The evidences of title of all investments shall be delivered to the treasurer of state or to a qualified trustee designated by the treasurer of state as provided in section 135.18 of the Revised Code. Assets of the fund shall be administered by the authority in a manner designed to be actuarially sound so that the assets of the fund will be sufficient to satisfy the obligations of the authority pursuant to tuition payment contracts and defray the reasonable expenses of administering the fund.

(E) The authority may enter into an agreement with any business, entity, or governmental agency to perform the investment duties of the authority as set forth in division (D) of this section. The investment powers shall be exercised by the business, entity, or governmental agency that entered into an agreement with the authority in a manner agreed upon by the authority that maximizes the return on investment and minimizes the administrative expenses.

(F)(1) The authority shall maintain a separate account for each tuition payment contract entered into pursuant to division (A) of section 3334.09 of the Revised Code for the purchase of tuition units on behalf of a beneficiary or beneficiaries showing the beneficiary or beneficiaries of that contract and the number of tuition units purchased pursuant to that contract. Upon request of any beneficiary or person who has entered into a tuition payment contract, the authority shall provide a statement indicating, in the case of a beneficiary, the number of tuition units purchased on behalf of the beneficiary, or in the case of a person who has entered into a tuition payment contract, the number of tuition units purchased, used, or refunded pursuant to that contract. A beneficiary and person that have entered into a tuition payment contract each may file only one request under this division in any year.

(2) The authority shall maintain an account for each scholarship program showing the number of tuition units that have been purchased for or donated to the program and the number of tuition units that have been used. Upon the request of the entity that established the scholarship program, the authority shall provide a statement indicating these numbers.

(G)(1) In addition to the Ohio tuition trust fund, there is hereby established a reserve fund that shall be in the custody of the treasurer of state but shall not be part of the state treasury, and shall be known as the Ohio tuition trust reserve fund, and an operating fund that shall be part of the state treasury, and shall be known as the Ohio tuition trust operating fund. That portion of payments received by the authority or the treasurer of state from persons purchasing tuition units under tuition payment contracts that the authority determines is not actuarially necessary for the payment of obligations of the authority pursuant to tuition payment contracts, any interest and investment income earned by the reserve fund, any administrative charges and fees imposed by the authority on transactions under this chapter or on purchasers or beneficiaries of tuition units, and all other receipts from any other source that the authority determines appropriate, shall be deposited in the reserve fund to pay the operating expenses of the authority and the costs of administering the program. The assets of the reserve fund may be invested in the same manner and subject to the same limitations set forth in divisions (D), (E), and (K) to (M) of this section and sections 145.112 and 145.113 of the Revised Code. All investment fees and other costs incurred in connection with the exercise of the investment powers shall be paid from the assets of the reserve fund. Except as otherwise provided for in this chapter, all operating expenses of the authority and costs of administering the program shall be paid from the operating fund.

(2) The treasurer of state shall, upon request of the authority, transfer funds from the reserve fund to the operating fund as the authority determines appropriate to pay those current operating expenses of the authority and costs of administering the program as the authority designates. Any interest or investment income earned on the assets of the operating fund shall be deposited in the operating fund.

(3) The treasurer of state shall, upon request by the chancellor of higher education and approval by the director of budget and management, transfer funds from the reserve fund to the

strategic square footage reduction fund created under section 3333.96 of the Revised Code.

(H) In January of each year the authority shall report to each person who received any payments or refunds from the authority during the preceding year information relative to the value of the payments or refunds to assist in determining that person's tax liability.

(I) The authority shall report to the tax commissioner any information, and at the times, as the tax commissioner requires to determine any tax liability that a person may have incurred during the preceding year as a result of having received any payments or refunds from the authority.

(J) All records of the authority indicating the identity of purchasers and beneficiaries of tuition units or college savings bonds, the number of tuition units purchased, used, or refunded under a tuition payment contract, and the number of college savings bonds purchased, held, or redeemed are not public records within the meaning of section 149.43 of the Revised Code.

(K)(1) The authority and other fiduciaries shall discharge their duties with respect to the funds with care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims; and by diversifying the investments of the assets of the funds so as to minimize the risk of large losses, unless under the circumstances it is clearly prudent not to do so.

(2) To facilitate investment of the funds, the authority may establish a partnership, trust, limited liability company, corporation, including a corporation exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code, 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C. 1, as amended, or any other legal entity authorized to transact business in this state.

(L) In exercising its fiduciary responsibility with respect to the investment of the assets of the funds, it shall be the intent of the authority to give consideration to investments that enhance the general welfare of the state and its citizens where the investments offer quality, return, and safety comparable to other investments currently available to the authority. In fulfilling this intent, equal consideration shall also be given to investments otherwise qualifying under this section that involve minority owned and controlled firms and firms owned and controlled by women, either alone or in joint venture with other firms.

The authority shall adopt, in regular meeting, policies, objectives, or criteria for the operation of the investment program that include asset allocation targets and ranges, risk factors, asset class benchmarks, time horizons, total return objectives, and performance evaluation guidelines. In adopting policies and criteria for the selection of agents with whom the authority may contract for the administration of the assets of the funds, the authority shall give equal consideration to minority owned and controlled firms, firms owned and controlled by women, and ventures involving minority owned and controlled firms and firms owned and controlled by women that otherwise meet the policies and criteria established by the authority. Amendments and additions to the policies and criteria shall be adopted in regular meeting. The authority shall publish its policies, objectives, and criteria under this provision no less often than annually and shall make copies

available to interested parties.

When reporting on the performance of investments, the authority shall comply with the performance presentation standards established by the association for investment management and research.

(M) All investments shall be purchased at current market prices and the evidences of title of the investments shall be placed in the hands of the treasurer of state, who is hereby designated as custodian thereof, or in the hands of the treasurer of state's authorized agent. The treasurer of state or the agent shall collect the principal, dividends, distributions, and interest thereon as they become due and payable and place them when so collected into the custodial funds.

The treasurer of state shall pay for investments purchased by the authority on receipt of written or electronic instructions from the authority or the authority's designated agent authorizing the purchase and pending receipt of the evidence of title of the investment by the treasurer of state or the treasurer of state's authorized agent. The authority may sell investments held by the authority, and the treasurer of state or the treasurer of state's authorized agent shall accept payment from the purchaser and deliver evidence of title of the investment to the purchaser on receipt of written or electronic instructions from the authority or the authority's designated agent authorizing the sale, and pending receipt of the moneys for the investments. The amount received shall be placed in the custodial funds. The authority and the treasurer of state may enter into agreements to establish procedures for the purchase and sale of investments under this division and the custody of the investments.

No purchase or sale of any investment shall be made under this section except as authorized by the authority.

Any statement of financial position distributed by the authority shall include fair value, as of the statement date, of all investments held by the authority under this section.

Sec. 3335.39. (A)(1) The Salmon P. Chase center for civics, culture, and society is established as an independent academic unit within the Ohio state university, ~~physically located in the college of public affairs~~. The center shall conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and society.

(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center to do all of the following:

(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;

(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of social and political importance;

(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of the university;

(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that shall naturally exist in a public university

community.

The requirements prescribed under divisions (A)(2)(a) to (d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws adopted by the center.

(3) The board of trustees of the university may change the name of the center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and practices of the university.

~~(B)(B)(1)~~ The center shall be an independent academic unit ~~physically located at the college of public affairs~~ with the authority to house tenure-track faculty who hold their appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the center shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within any other division of the university. Not fewer than fifteen tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted to teach under the center. No faculty outside of the center shall have the authority to block faculty hires into the center.

(2) The university shall provide adequate and appropriate space for the center as jointly determined by the director and either the president or provost of the university. The university shall not charge or assess overhead or indirect fees, costs, expenses, or charges to the center.

(C)(1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the following:

(a) The books and major debates which form the intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of the United States;

(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the American constitutional order;

(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed citizenship.

(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following:

(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the values of free speech and civil discourse;

(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the university's academic community.

~~(D)(1) Not later than November 20, 2023, the~~ The board of trustees of the university shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a seven-member Chase center academic council. An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the senate. Four members shall form a quorum.

(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member of the council may be an employee of the university. Best efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of the advisory board be from Ohio.

(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.

(E)(1) The academic council established under division (D) of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall submit to the president of the university a list of finalists from which the president shall select and appoint a director, subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors shall be chosen in the same manner.

(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or tenure eligibility. The director shall ~~consult with the dean of the college of public affairs; however, the director shall~~ report directly to the provost or the president of the university.

(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff, and to terminate employment of all staff. The director shall oversee, develop, and approve the center's curriculum, including approval of the center's courses that meet the university's general education requirements. The center shall be granted the authority to offer courses and develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate programs, and offer degrees.

(F) The director of the center shall submit an annual report to the board of trustees of the university and the general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles in the development of this academic unit.

Sec. 3339.06. (A)(1) The Miami university center for civics, culture, and society is established as an independent academic unit within Miami university, ~~physically located in the college of arts and sciences.~~ The center shall conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and society.

(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center to do all of the following:

(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;

(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of social and political importance;

(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of the university;

(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that shall naturally exist in a public university community.

The requirements prescribed under divisions (A)(2)(a) to (d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws adopted by the center.

(3) The board of trustees of the university may name the center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and practices of the university.

~~(B)~~(B)(1) The center shall be an independent academic unit physically located at the college of arts and sciences with the authority to house tenure-track faculty who hold their appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the center shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within any other division of the university. Not fewer than ten tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted to teach under the center. No faculty outside of the center shall have the authority to block faculty hires into the center.

(2) The university shall provide adequate and appropriate space for the center as jointly determined by the director and either the president or provost of the university. The university shall not charge or assess overhead or indirect fees, costs, expenses, or charges to the center.

(C)(1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the following:

(a) The books and major debates which form the intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of the United States;

(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the American constitutional order;

(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed citizenship.

(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following:

(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the values of free speech and civil discourse;

(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the university's academic community.

(D)(1) ~~Not later than December 31, 2023, the~~ The board of trustees of the university shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a seven-member center academic council. An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the senate. Four members shall form a quorum.

(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member of the council may be an employee of the university. Best efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of the advisory board be from Ohio.

(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.

(E)(1) The academic council established under division (D) of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall submit to the president of the university a list of finalists from which the president shall select and appoint a director, subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors shall be chosen in the same manner.

(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or tenure eligibility. The director shall ~~consult with the dean of the college of arts and sciences; however, the director shall report directly to the provost or the president of the university.~~

(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff of the center, and to terminate employment of all staff. The director shall oversee, develop, and approve the center's curriculum, including approval of the center's courses that meet the university's general education requirements. The center shall be granted the authority to offer courses and develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate programs, and offer degrees.

(F) The director of the center shall submit an annual report to the board of trustees of the university and the general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code. The

report shall provide a full account of the center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles in the development of this academic unit.

Sec. 3344.07. (A)(1) The Cleveland state university center for civics, culture, and society is established as an independent academic unit within Cleveland state university, ~~physically located in the Levin college of public affairs and education~~. The center shall conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and society.

(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center to do all of the following:

(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;

(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of social and political importance;

(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of the university;

(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that shall naturally exist in a public university community.

The requirements prescribed under divisions (A)(2)(a) to (d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws adopted by the center.

(3) The board of trustees of the university may name the center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and practices of the university.

~~(B)(B)(1)~~ The center shall be an independent academic unit physically located at the college of public affairs and education with the authority to house tenure-track faculty who hold their appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the center shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within any other division of the university. Not fewer than ten tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted to teach under the center. No faculty outside of the center shall have the authority to block faculty hires into the center.

(2) The university shall provide adequate and appropriate space for the center as jointly determined by the director and either the president or provost of the university. The university shall not charge or assess overhead or indirect fees, costs, expenses, or charges to the center.

(C)(1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the following:

(a) The books and major debates which form the intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of the United States;

(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the American constitutional order;

(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed citizenship.

(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following:

(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the values of free speech and civil

discourse;

(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the university's academic community.

(D)(1) ~~Not later than December 31, 2023, the~~ The board of trustees of the university shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a seven-member center academic council. An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the senate. Four members shall form a quorum.

(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member of the council may be an employee of the university. Best efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of the advisory board be from Ohio.

(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.

(E)(1) The academic council established under division (D) of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall submit to the president of the university a list of finalists from which the president shall select and appoint a director, subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors shall be chosen in the same manner.

(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or tenure eligibility. The director shall ~~consult with the dean of the college of public affairs and education; however, the director shall~~ report directly to the provost or the president of the university.

(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff of the center, and to terminate employment of all staff. The director shall oversee, develop, and approve the center's curriculum, including approval of the center's courses that meet the university's general education requirements. The center shall be granted the authority to offer courses and develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate programs, and offer degrees.

(F) The director of the center shall submit an annual report to the board of trustees of the university and the general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles in the development of this academic unit.

Sec. 3345.06. As used in this section, "state institution of higher education" and "state university" have the same meanings as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.

~~(A)(A)(1)~~ Subject to divisions (B) and (C) of this section, a graduate of the twelfth grade shall be entitled to admission without examination to any ~~college or university which is supported wholly or in part by the state~~ state institution of higher education, but for unconditional admission may be required to complete such units not included in the graduate's high school course as may be prescribed, not less than two years prior to the graduate's entrance, by the faculty of the institution.

(2) Subject to divisions (B) and (C) of this section, each graduate of the twelfth grade who is

in the top ten per cent of a graduating class as determined by the chancellor of higher education shall be entitled to admission to any state institution of higher education. If the student does not meet the standards for unconditional admission under division (A) of this section, a state university may delay main campus admission and admit the student to a university branch campus.

(3) Subject to divisions (B) and (C) of this section, each graduate who is in the top five per cent of a graduating class as determined by the chancellor shall be entitled to admission to the main campus of a state institution of higher education, provided the recipient meets the application and acceptance deadlines for admission to the main campus.

(4) The chancellor of higher education, in consultation with the director of education and workforce, shall identify a process to provide each state institution of higher education with information on students who are eligible for admission under divisions (A)(2) and (3) of this section.

(B) Beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year, each state university ~~listed in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code~~, except for Central state university, Shawnee state university, and Youngstown state university, shall permit a resident of this state who entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2010, to begin undergraduate coursework at the university only if the person has successfully completed the requirements for high school graduation prescribed in division (C) of section 3313.603 of the Revised Code, unless one of the following applies:

(1) The person has earned at least ten semester hours, or the equivalent, at a community college, state community college, university branch, technical college, or another post-secondary institution except a state university to which division (B) of this section applies, in courses that are college-credit-bearing and may be applied toward the requirements for a degree. The university shall grant credit for successful completion of those courses pursuant to any applicable articulation and transfer policy of the chancellor of higher education or any agreements the university has entered into in accordance with policies and procedures adopted under section 3333.16, 3333.161, or 3333.162 of the Revised Code. The university may count college credit that the student earned while in high school through the college credit plus program under Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code, or through other advanced standing programs, toward the requirements of division (B)(1) of this section if the credit may be applied toward a degree.

(2) The person qualified to graduate from high school under division (D) or (F) of section 3313.603 of the Revised Code and has successfully completed the topics or courses that the person lacked to graduate under division (C) of that section at any post-secondary institution or at a summer program at the state university. A state university may admit a person for enrollment contingent upon completion of such topics or courses or summer program.

(3) The person met the high school graduation requirements by successfully completing the person's individualized education program developed under section 3323.08 of the Revised Code.

(4) The person is receiving or has completed the final year of education at home as authorized under section 3321.042 of the Revised Code, or has graduated from a nonchartered, nonpublic school in Ohio, and demonstrates mastery of the academic content and skills in reading,

writing, and mathematics needed to successfully complete introductory level coursework at an institution of higher education and to avoid remedial coursework.

(5) The person is a high school student participating in the college credit plus program under Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code or another advanced standing program.

(C) A state university subject to division (B) of this section may delay admission for or admit conditionally an undergraduate student who has successfully completed the requirements prescribed in division (C) of section 3313.603 of the Revised Code if the university determines the student requires academic remedial or developmental coursework. The university may delay admission pending, or make admission conditional upon, the student's successful completion of the academic remedial or developmental coursework at a university branch, community college, state community college, or technical college.

(D) This section does not deny the right of a college of law, medicine, or other specialized education to require college training for admission, or the right of a department of music or other art to require particular preliminary training or talent.

Sec. 3345.382. (A) As used in this section, "state institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.

(B) Each state institution of higher education shall develop a course with not fewer than three credit hours in the subject area of American civic literacy. The course shall include a study of the American economic system and capitalism. The course shall comply with the criteria, policies, and procedures established under section 3333.16 of the Revised Code. The course may be offered under the college credit plus program established under Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code. The course shall, at a minimum, require each student to read all the following:

- (1) The entire Constitution of the United States;
- (2) The entire Declaration of Independence;
- (3) A minimum of five essays in their entirety from the Federalist Papers. The essays shall be selected by the department chair.
- (4) The entire Emancipation Proclamation;
- (5) The entire Gettysburg Address;
- (6) The entire Letter from Birmingham Jail written by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr;
- (7) The writings of Adam Smith, including a study of the principles written in The Wealth of Nations.

Any student who takes the course shall be required to pass a cumulative final examination at the conclusion of the course that assesses student proficiency about the documents described in divisions (B)(1) to (7) of this section.

Each state institution of higher education board of trustees shall adopt a resolution approving a plan to offer the course developed under this section. Each state institution shall submit that plan to the chancellor of higher education. The chancellor shall review and approve each plan. Prior to approving a plan, the chancellor may require a state institution to revise the plan and the course.

Each state institution of higher education board of trustees also shall adopt a resolution specifying the conditions under which the state institution's president or designee may exempt a student under division (D)(3) of this section.

(C) Beginning with students who graduate from a state institution of higher education in the spring semester, or equivalent quarter, of the 2029-2030 academic year, no state institution of higher education shall grant a bachelor's degree to any student unless the student completes a course described in division (B) of this section. A state institution may require students to complete the course as part of the institution's general education courses of study.

(D) The president of a state institution of higher education, or the president's designee, may exempt a student from the requirement to complete a course described in division (B) of this section, if the president or designee determines that the student has completed at least one of the following:

(1) A course offered under the college credit plus program established under Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code that satisfies the content requirements described in division (B) of this section and is approved by the chancellor;

(2) An advanced placement course and examination that satisfy the content requirements described in division (B) of this section and are approved by the chancellor, and the student receives a score of three or higher on that examination;

(3) At least three credit hours, or the equivalent, in a course in the subject area of American history or American government which includes the study of the documents described in divisions (B)(1) to (7) of this section.

Division (D)(3) of this section does not apply after the 2030-2031 academic year.

(E) This section does not apply to associate's degree programs.

Sec. 3345.457. (A) As used in this section, "state institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.

(B) The board of trustees of each state institution of higher education has ultimate authority to establish new academic programs, schools, colleges, institutes, departments, and centers at the institution. Notwithstanding anything in section 3333.0420 of the Revised Code to the contrary, the board of trustees may not delegate the board's authority to adopt a curricular approval process under this section or to approve or reject academic programs.

(C) The board of trustees of each state institution of higher education shall adopt a curricular approval process to establish and modify academic programs, curricula, courses, general education requirements, and degree programs. The process developed under this division shall do all of the following:

(1) Grant the faculty senate, or comparable representative body, the opportunity to provide advice, feedback, and recommendations on the establishment and modification of academic programs, curricula, courses, general education requirements, and degree programs;

(2) Clarify that all feedback and recommendations by the faculty senate, or comparable representative body, is advisory in nature;

(3) Retain the board's final, overriding authority to approve or reject any establishment or modification of academic programs, curricula, courses, general education requirements, and degree programs.

(D) Each board of trustees shall complete the initial curricular approval process developed under this section not later than six months after the effective date of this section, unless the institution's president grants a one-month extension, and every five years thereafter. The board of trustees shall submit each completed version of the approval process developed under this section to the chancellor of higher education.

Sec. 3345.48. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Cohort" means a group of students who will complete their bachelor's degree requirements and graduate from a state university at the same time. A cohort may include transfer students and other selected undergraduate student academic programs as determined by the board of trustees of a state university.

(2) "Eligible student" means an undergraduate student who:

(a) Is enrolled full-time in a bachelor's degree program at a state university;

(b) Is a resident of this state, as defined by the chancellor of higher education under section 3333.31 of the Revised Code.

(3) "State university" has the same meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.

(B) The board of trustees of each state university shall establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee program that allows eligible students in the same cohort to pay a fixed rate for general and instructional fees for four years. A board of trustees may include room and board and any additional fees in the program.

The board shall adopt rules for the program that include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(1) The number of credit hours required to earn an undergraduate degree in each major;

(2) A guarantee that the general and instructional fees for each student in the cohort shall remain constant for four years so long as the student complies with the requirements of the program, except that, notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the board may increase the guaranteed amount by up to six per cent above what has been charged in the previous academic year one time for the first cohort enrolled under the tuition guarantee program. If the board of trustees determines that economic conditions or other circumstances require an increase for the first cohort of above six per cent, the board shall submit a request to increase the amount by a specified percentage to the chancellor. The chancellor, based on information the chancellor requires from the board of trustees, shall approve or disapprove such a request. Thereafter, except as provided in division (F) of this section, the board of trustees may increase the guaranteed amount by up to the sum of the following above what has been charged in the previous academic year one time per subsequent cohort:

(a) The average rate of inflation, as measured by the consumer price index prepared by the bureau of labor statistics of the United States department of labor (all urban consumers, all items),

for the previous thirty-six-month period; and

(b) The percentage amount the general assembly restrains increases on in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees for the applicable fiscal year. If the general assembly does not enact a limit on the increase of in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees, then no limit shall apply under this division for the cohort that first enrolls in any academic year for which the general assembly does not prescribe a limit.

If, beginning with the academic year that starts four years after September 29, 2013, the board of trustees determines that the general and instructional fees charged under the tuition guarantee have fallen significantly lower than those of other state universities, the board of trustees may submit a request to increase the amount charged to a cohort by a specified percentage to the chancellor, who shall approve or disapprove such a request.

(3) A benchmark by which the board sets annual increases in general and instructional fees. This benchmark and any subsequent change to the benchmark shall be subject to approval of the chancellor.

(4) Eligibility requirements for students to participate in the program;

(5) Student rights and privileges under the program;

(6) Consequences to the university for students unable to complete a degree program within four years, as follows:

(a) For a student who could not complete the program in four years due to a lack of available classes or space in classes provided by the university, the university shall provide the necessary course or courses for completion to the student free of charge.

(b) For a student who could not complete the program in four years due to military service or other circumstances beyond a student's control, as determined by the board of trustees, the university shall provide the necessary course or courses for completion to the student at the student's initial cohort rate.

(c) For a student who did not complete the program in four years for any other reason, as determined by the board of trustees, the university shall provide the necessary course or courses for completion to the student at a rate determined through a method established by the board under division (B)(7) of this section.

(7) Guidelines for adjusting a student's annual charges if the student, due to circumstances under the student's control, is unable to complete a degree program within four years;

(8) A requirement that the rules adopted under division (B) of this section be published or posted in the university handbook, course catalog, and web site.

(C) The board shall submit the rules adopted under division (B) of this section to the chancellor for approval before beginning implementation of the program.

The chancellor shall not unreasonably withhold approval of a program if the program conforms in principle with the parameters and guidelines of this section.

(D) A board of trustees of a state university may establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee

program for nonresident students.

(E) Except as provided in this section, no other limitation on the increase of in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees shall apply to a state university that has established an undergraduate tuition guarantee program under this section.

(F) Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, the board of trustees of a state university shall not charge

the cohort entering in the 2023-2024 ~~or~~ 2024-2025, 2025-2026, or 2026-2027 academic year a guaranteed amount of general and instructional fees that is more than three per cent above what was charged to the cohort that entered the university in the previous academic year.

Sec. 3345.58. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Academic civics centers" means the following institutes or centers:

(a) The center at the Ohio state university established under section 3335.39 of the Revised Code;

(b) The center at Miami university established under section 3339.06 of the Revised Code;

(c) The center at Cleveland state university established under section 3344.07 of the Revised Code;

(d) The center at Wright state university established under section 3352.16 of the Revised Code;

(e) The institute at the university of Toledo established under section 3364.07 of the Revised Code.

(2) "State institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.

(B) The Ohio civics board is established. The board shall consist of the directors of the academic civics centers, who shall serve as ex officio members. If an academic civics center does not have a director, then the center's acting or interim director shall serve on behalf of that center until a director is selected. No additional appointment or confirmation by any authority is required for membership.

(C) The board shall do all of the following:

(1) Support the academic civics centers to more effectively pursue their mission of teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American and Ohio constitutional order and society;

(2) Aid voluntary cooperation and coordination between the academic civics centers, including coordinating intercollegiate efforts and initiatives among the centers to promote collaboration and serve the entire state of Ohio;

(3) Advise the general assembly and chancellor of higher education on matters pertaining to civic education, including best practices, program development, and statewide initiatives to enhance civic literacy and engagement;

(4) Advise the general assembly and chancellor on curriculum development and standards in

state institutions of higher education and primary and secondary public education providers, and on the operations of the academic civics centers;

(5) Assist the academic councils of the academic civics centers in fulfilling their statutory duties, including facilitating the selection process for directors of each center.

(D) The board shall annually elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its members. The chairperson shall preside over meetings and serve as the primary liaison to the chancellor and the general assembly. The vice-chairperson shall perform the duties of the chairperson in the absence of the chairperson.

The board shall meet as necessary at the call of the chairperson or on the written request of three or more members of the board. The board shall meet at least twice annually.

A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum, and the votes of a majority of the quorum present are required to validate any action of the board, including recommendations.

The members of the board shall serve without compensation, but each member shall be reimbursed for the member's actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the member's official duties on the board.

(E) The board shall submit an annual report to the general assembly and the chancellor not later than the first day of December each year. The report shall detail the board's activities, recommendations, and findings related to civic education, higher education curricula, primary and secondary public education curricula, and the operations of the academic civics centers.

(F) The board, in consultation with the chancellor, may adopt rules under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code as necessary to implement this section.

Sec. 3345.591. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "People's Republic of China" means the government of China, the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Liberation Army, or any other extension of, or entity affiliated with, the government of China.

(2) "State institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.

(B) No state institution of higher education shall accept gifts, donations, or contributions from the People's Republic of China or any organization the institution reasonably suspects is acting on behalf of the People's Republic of China.

Nothing in this section prohibits a state institution of higher education from accepting payments from Chinese citizens related to instructional fees, general fees, special fees, cost of instruction, or educational expenses or donations from the institution's alumni.

Nothing in this section prohibits a state institution of higher education from receiving philanthropic or unrestricted grants so long as it maintains the structural safeguard requirements provided for in division (E) of this section.

(C) Each state institution shall submit to the chancellor of higher education a copy of the report it submits to the United States department of education pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1011(f).

(D) Upon request, the chancellor shall make any information reported under division (C) of this section available to any member of the general assembly.

(E) A state institution shall notify the chancellor of any new or renewed academic partnership with an academic or research institution located in China. A state institution shall only enter into a new or renewed academic partnership with an academic or research institution located in China if the state institution maintains sufficient structural safeguards to protect the state institution's intellectual property, the security of the state of Ohio, and the national security interests of the United States. The safeguards shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

(1) Compliance with all federal requirements, including the requirements of federal research sponsors and federal export control agencies, including regulations regarding international traffic in arms and export administration regulations, and economic and trade sanctions administered by the federal office of foreign assets control;

(2) Annual formal institution-level programs for faculty on conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment;

(3) A formalized foreign visitor process and uniform visiting scholar agreement.

(F) The auditor of state shall audit the safeguards implemented by state institutions of higher education under division (E) of this section in the course of a normal audit conducted under section ~~117.46~~117.11 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3345.601. Each state institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, annually shall certify to the chancellor of higher education, on a date and in the form and manner determined by the chancellor, a plan to preserve student records indefinitely if the state institution was to cease operations. The plan shall include the designation and signed confirmation of an official custodian of student records. If the chancellor determines it necessary, the chancellor may require a state institution to produce an executed agreement with the designated custodian of student records, paid in full, to ensure the state institution's plan can be implemented.

The chancellor may consult with the higher learning commission, the state board of career colleges and schools, and other appropriate entities to establish plans, processes, and procedures for state institutions to provide indefinite access to student records.

Sec. 3345.71. As used in sections 3345.72 to 3345.77 of the Revised Code:

(A) "State university or college" means any state university listed in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, the northeast Ohio medical university, any community college under Chapter 3354. of the Revised Code, any technical college under Chapter 3357. of the Revised Code, and any state community college under Chapter 3358. of the Revised Code.

(B) "Fiscal caution" means the existence of a fiscal caution declared under section 3345.721 of the Revised Code.

(C) "Fiscal watch" means the existence of a fiscal watch declared under section 3345.72 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3345.721. (A) The chancellor of higher education, in consultation with the office of

budget and management, shall adopt rules in accordance with section 111.15 of the Revised Code that include all of the following:

(1) Criteria for determining when to review and, if necessary, declare a state university or college under fiscal caution. The criteria may include, but not be limited to, consideration of the following:

- (a) A significant drop in enrollment from the prior year;
- (b) A decline in enrollment for consecutive years;
- (c) A significant increase in enrollment;
- (d) A significant increase in adjunct faculty;
- (e) An increase in student complaints;
- (f) A substantial increase in the number of third-party service providers who are paid based on success;
- (g) Federal financial aid processing delays;
- (h) Reduced or increased reliance on state share of instruction;
- (i) Receipt of substantial nonrecurring revenue, from any source, that could signify a structural budget deficit;
- (j) Failure to reconcile or file annual reports promptly, which may cause a delay in completing a yearly audit even if granted an extension;
- (k) A lack of proper institutional segregation of critical duties, functions, or responsibilities;
- (l) Significant turnover of faculty, staff, or administrators;
- (m) A significant amount of past due student receivables;
- (n) A significant increase in tuition or fee waivers;
- (o) Change in accreditation status by a nationally recognized accrediting agency;
- (p) A significant increase in indebtedness;
- (q) A federal program review or actions taken by a federal agency that adversely affects the state university's or college's finances, cash management, or educational program offerings;
- (r) Significant changes in a state university's or college's educational program eligibility or compliance with satisfactory academic progress requirements in 34 C.F.R. 668.34, including an increase in the use of correspondence or asynchronous learning materials.

(2) A requirement that a state university or college declared to be on fiscal caution shall submit a financial recovery plan, within a defined period of time after the declaration as determined by the chancellor, that may include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- (a) Projections of revenues and expenditures over a three-year time horizon and on such other time horizons as may be requested by the chancellor;
- (b) A comprehensive review of current staffing levels, a comparison of staffing levels to the number of enrolled students, and a five-year historical summary of staffing levels;
- (c) A review of the most recent submission of institutional recommendations for courses and programs based on enrollment and duplication with other state institutions of higher education, as

required by section 3345.35 of the Revised Code, and submission of revised recommendations as determined to be necessary;

(d) A review of any approved tuition waivers, tuition guarantees, reciprocity agreements, or scholarship programs;

(e) A plan to reduce expenditures over a six-month, twelve-month, eighteen-month, and twenty-four-month period, as necessary, to align ongoing revenue with ongoing expenses;

(f) A review of contracts that are the largest portion of the state university's or college's expenditures;

(g) A program viability analysis, or analyses, as determined by the chancellor to be necessary in accordance with section 3333.073 of the Revised Code.

(3) A requirement that a state university or college declared to be on fiscal caution shall submit a three-year forecast of revenues and expenditures, approved in a resolution adopted by the board of trustees of the state university or college. The three-year forecast shall be structurally balanced based on a set of underlying assumptions, including enrollment projections, tuition revenue, and state funding levels, that are evidence-based and practicable;

(4) A requirement that a state university or college declared to be on fiscal caution shall consult with the auditor of state regarding any necessary or appropriate steps to bring the books of account, accounting systems, and financial procedures and reports of the state university or college into compliance with requirements prescribed by the auditor of state regarding desirable modifications and supplementary systems and procedures pertinent to the university or college. The auditor of state shall provide a written report to the board of trustees of the state university or college outlining the nature of the financial accounting and reporting problems of the university or college and recommendations for actions to be undertaken to correct the financial accounting and reporting problems. If requested by the state university or college or recommended by the chancellor, the auditor of state may additionally perform a performance audit of the state university or college.

(5) A requirement that for the duration of a fiscal caution, a state university or college shall submit regular reports on any of the above matters or new matters identified by the auditor of state or the chancellor as contributing to the reason for the declaration, preventing the recovery of the state university or college, or the inability to be removed from fiscal caution.

(6) Criteria for determining when to declare the termination of the fiscal caution of a state university or college.

(B) A state university or college shall provide the chancellor with all information requested under this section in the time and manner determined by the chancellor. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, failure to comply in a satisfactory manner, as determined by the chancellor, may result in a declaration of fiscal watch under section 3345.72 of the Revised Code.

(C) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the chancellor may impose limitations on a state university or college that fails to comply with this section or the rules adopted pursuant to this section or fails to take decisive action to improve the state university's or college's financial

condition. Such limitations may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Limitations on eligibility to participate in grants and programs administered by the chancellor;

(2) Limitations on approval of a new degree program or associated certificates;

(3) Suspension of additional enrollment in an educational program;

(4) Restriction of an increase in any special fee or a creation of a new fee;

(5) Limitations on the power of the board of trustees to enter into new or renewed contracts without prior approval from the chancellor;

(6) Withholding approval of any controlling board request for capital projects.

(D) The chancellor, the office of budget and management, or the auditor of state may conduct any audit or analysis necessary to assess the fiscal condition of any state university or college.

Sec. 3345.74. (A) The chancellor of higher education at least annually shall apply the indicators and standards adopted under division (A) of section 3345.73 of the Revised Code to determine whether a state university or college under a fiscal watch is experiencing sufficient fiscal difficulties to warrant the appointment of a conservator under this section or if the board of trustees of a state university or college has taken any action related to pausing or stopping enrollment, submitted a withdrawal of accreditation, or taken any other action indicating it will no longer offer educational activity or will undergo a wind down and dissolution of existence. Upon making a determination that appointment of a conservator is warranted, the chancellor shall request from the office of budget and management, which shall provide, certification that sufficient fiscal difficulties exist to warrant appointment of a conservator. The chancellor shall then certify this determination to the governor.

Notwithstanding section 3333.021 of the Revised Code, that section does not apply to certification by the chancellor under this section or to the declaration of a fiscal watch under section 3345.72 of the Revised Code.

A determination by the chancellor under this division that sufficient fiscal difficulties exist or do not exist to warrant appointing a conservator is final and conclusive and not appealable.

(B) The governor may appoint a conservator for any state university or college under a fiscal watch, upon certification by the chancellor under division (A) of this section that the appointment is warranted. The governor shall consult with the speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives and the president and minority leader of the senate before making the appointment. From the time a conservator is appointed until the time the governor issues an order terminating the governance authority under division (B) of section 3345.76 of the Revised Code, the governor may remove any member of the board of trustees of the state university or college from office and not fill the vacancy.

(C) Upon appointment of a conservator under this section for a state university or college, all of the following shall occur effective immediately:

(1) All duties, responsibilities, and powers of the board of trustees of the university or college are suspended;

(2) The management and control of the state university or college is assumed by the conservator;

(3) Notwithstanding any section of the Revised Code, all duties, responsibilities, and powers assigned by law to the board of trustees are assigned to the conservator, and the conservator becomes the successor to, assumes the lawful obligations of, and otherwise constitutes the continuation of the board of trustees for purposes of all pending legal actions, contracts or other agreements, and obligations of the university or college;

(4) Wherever the board of trustees is referred to in any contract or legal document, the reference is deemed to refer to the conservator. No validation, cure, right, privilege, remedy, obligation, or liability is lost or impaired by reason of the assumption of the board's authority by the conservator under this section and any such validation, cure, right, privilege, remedy, obligation, or liability shall be administered by the conservator. No action or proceeding pending on the effective date of the assumption by the conservator of the board's authority is affected by that assumption and any such action or proceeding shall be prosecuted or defended in the name of the conservator.

(5) The conservator assumes custody of all equipment, records, files, effects, and all other property real or personal of the state university or college;

(6) All authority and duties of the president or chief executive officer, and the pay of the president or chief executive officer, are suspended.

(D) The conservator for a state university or college shall conduct a preliminary performance evaluation of the president or chief executive officer of the university or college and provide a copy of findings and any recommendations to the governance authority established for the university or college under section 3345.75 of the Revised Code.

(E) A conservator appointed under this section shall be immune, indemnified, and held harmless from civil liability, including any cause of action, legal, equitable, or otherwise, for any action taken or duties performed by the conservator in good faith and in furtherance of the performance of the duties of the conservator under this section.

(F) The governor shall set the compensation for a conservator appointed for a state university or college. The expenses and compensation of the conservator and others employed by the conservator shall be paid out of the operating funds and revenues of that university or college.

Sec. 3345.75. (A) Not later than thirty days after the date of the appointment of a conservator for a state university or college under section 3345.74 of the Revised Code, the governor shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a governance authority for the university or college consisting of five members, of which one shall have expertise in academic affairs and accreditation and one shall have expertise in either state agency budgets or state university or college finances. The members shall serve at the pleasure of the governor and any vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as an original appointment.

The governor shall designate one of the members of the governance authority as the chairperson and shall call the first meeting of the authority. A majority of the members of a governance authority constitutes a quorum and the affirmative vote of a majority of the members shall be necessary for any action taken by an authority. Meetings of a governance authority shall be called in the manner and at the times prescribed by the authority, but the authority shall meet at least four times annually and at other times necessary for the best interest of the university or college. A governance authority may adopt procedures for the conduct of its business.

The members of a governance authority shall not receive compensation for their services, but shall be paid their reasonable and necessary expenses while engaged in the discharge of their official duties.

(B)(1) A governance authority established under this section shall appoint an executive director who shall serve at the pleasure of the authority and with the compensation and other terms and conditions established by it. With the approval of the chairperson of the authority, the executive director may appoint additional personnel as the director considers appropriate. The executive director shall oversee the day-to-day operation of the university or college under the direction and supervision of the authority.

(2) The governance authority shall conduct a final performance evaluation of the president or chief executive officer of the university or college. Following the evaluation, the governance authority may reinstate any duties, authority, or pay previously suspended under division (C)(6) of section 3345.74 of the Revised Code, or may terminate the president or chief executive officer in accordance with the terms of the person's employment contract.

(C) Upon appointment of all members of a governance authority under this section and upon the effective date for the commencement of the duties of the executive director appointed by that authority under this section, all authority, responsibilities, duties, and references assumed by or conferred upon the conservator under divisions (C)(2) to (6) of section 3345.74 of the Revised Code terminate and all of the following shall occur, effective immediately:

(1) The management and control of the state university or college is assumed by the governance authority;

(2) Notwithstanding any section of the Revised Code, all duties, responsibilities, and powers assigned by law to the board of trustees or to the conservator are assigned to the governance authority and the governance authority becomes the successor to, assumes the lawful obligations of, and otherwise constitutes the continuation of the board of trustees and the conservator for purposes of all pending legal actions, contracts or other agreements, and obligations of the university or college;

(3) Wherever the board of trustees or conservator is referred to in any contract or legal document, the reference is deemed to refer to the governance authority. No validation, cure, right, privilege, remedy, obligation, or liability is lost or impaired by reason of the assumption of the authority of the board of trustees and the conservator by the governance authority under this section

and any such validation, cure, right, privilege, remedy, obligation, or liability shall be administered by the governance authority. No action or proceeding pending on the effective date of the assumption by the governance authority of the authority of the board of trustees and the conservator is affected by that assumption and any such action or proceeding shall be prosecuted or defended in the name of the governance authority.

(4) The governance authority assumes custody of all equipment, records, files, effects, and all other property real or personal of the state university or college.

(D) A governance authority and executive director appointed under this section shall be immune, indemnified, and held harmless from civil liability, including any cause of action, legal, equitable, or otherwise, for any action taken or duties performed by the governance authority and executive director in good faith and in furtherance of the performance of the duties of the governance authority and executive director under this section.

(E) The expenses of a governance authority and the expenses and compensation of an executive director appointed for a state university or college under this section and others employed by the executive director under this section shall be paid out of the operating funds and revenues of that university or college.

(F) A governance authority appointed under this section shall prepare, in accordance with rules adopted by the office of budget and management, and submit to the chancellor of higher education, the governor, the speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives, and the president and minority leader of the senate a quarterly report setting forth all of the following:

(1) The general condition of the university or college;

(2) The amounts of receipts and disbursements and the items for which the disbursements were made;

(3) The numbers of professors, officers, teachers, and other employees and the position and compensation of each and the numbers of students by courses of instruction;

(4) An estimate of expenses for the ensuing quarter;

(5) A statement of the general progress of the university or college with indication of any improvements and specification of any experiments with institutional reform and the costs and results of those experiments;

(6) If the governance authority determines closure is necessary or is appointed to facilitate an orderly closure as determined to be necessary by the board of trustees prior to the governance authority's appointment, all matters related to compliance with the requirements of a closure of an institution of higher education as specified by the chancellor;

(7) Any other matters the governance authority considers useful to report.

(G) The attorney general shall be the legal adviser to the conservator and the governance authority, and the attorney general may employ special counsel to aid the conservator or governance authority with respect to any legal matter on behalf of the institution. The conservator and the governance authority may as otherwise provided by law request the attorney general to bring or

defend suits or proceedings in the name of the institution.

Sec. 3345.83. (A) Beginning not later than the 2027-2028 academic year, each state institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, shall develop and implement a co-op internship program that aligns with JobsOhio's target economic sectors and connects students with Ohio-based employers to facilitate work-based learning opportunities, which may include apprenticeships, internships, externships, and co-ops, related to the student's course of study. Institutions shall work with JobsOhio to develop and implement their program, which shall include identifying industry and employer partners.

(B) The chancellor of higher education shall consult with JobsOhio and any other appropriate stakeholders to develop the goals, structure, and parameters of the program. The chancellor may consult with other stakeholders.

(C) Beginning on the thirtieth day of June following the academic year in which the co-op internship program under division (A) of this section is implemented and annually thereafter, each institution shall issue a report to the chancellor on the status of the institution's program, including the number of participating students, which employers are partnering with the institution, and how many participating students have received or accepted offers of employment after graduation as a direct result of their participation in the program.

Sec. 3345.86. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Competency-based educational program" and "eligible individual" have the same meanings as in section 3313.902 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Eligible provider" means a community college established under Chapter 3354. of the Revised Code, a university branch established under Chapter 3355. of the Revised Code, a technical college established under Chapter 3357. of the Revised Code, a state community college established under Chapter 3358. of the Revised Code, or an Ohio technical center as defined in section 3333.94 of the Revised Code.

(B) An eligible provider may establish a competency-based educational program that complies with standards adopted by the department of education and workforce and may enroll eligible individuals in the program for up to three consecutive school years for the purpose of earning a high school diploma. The provider shall establish a career plan for each individual enrolled in the program that specifies the individual's career goals and describes how the individual will demonstrate competency or earn course credits under division (C) of section 3313.902 of the Revised Code to earn a diploma and attain the individual's career goals. Notwithstanding sections 3313.61, 3313.611, 3313.613, 3313.614, 3313.618, and 3313.619 of the Revised Code, the department shall award a high school diploma to an individual enrolled in a program who satisfies one of the conditions specified in division (C) of section 3313.902 of the Revised Code.

(C) An eligible provider shall report each individual enrolled in a program under division (B) of this section to the department. The department annually shall certify the enrollment and attendance of each individual reported under this division and shall pay the provider up to \$7,500

per school year, as determined by the department based on the extent of the individual's successful completion of the diploma requirements prescribed in division (C) of section 3313.902 of the Revised Code.

(D) An eligible provider that enrolls individuals under division (B) of this section is subject to the requirements of section 3313.902 of the Revised Code, as applicable.

Sec. 3345.89. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "College credit plus pathways" means the pathways developed under section 3365.13 of the Revised Code.

(2) "State university" has the same meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code.

(B) The accelerated college and career pathways program is established. Under the program, each state university shall establish at least one accelerated ninety-hour degree program aligned to an in-demand career area by the 2027-2028 academic year. Each state university shall determine the number and types of accelerated degrees to be offered. Each state university shall do all of the following:

(1) Include accelerated ninety-hour degree programs in course and program catalogues;

(2) Ensure that accelerated ninety-hour degree programs are properly accredited and meet the requirements for reduced credit hour degree programs. The chancellor of higher education shall approve each accelerated ninety-hour degree program developed by a state university that meets the requirements established under section 3333.97 of the Revised Code.

(3) Work collaboratively with local and regional business community partners to identify in-demand career areas during the development of accelerated ninety-hour degree programs.

(4) Report to the chancellor all of the following:

(a) The accelerated ninety-hour degree programs the state university offers;

(b) The number of students participating in each program;

(c) The number of students that complete each program;

(d) Any additional information required by the chancellor under section 3333.97 of the Revised Code.

(C)(1) Each state university shall develop, in consultation with local and regional primary and secondary education partners, model college credit plus pathways that are aligned with the accelerated ninety-hour degree programs offered by the state university and regional and state workforce needs.

(2) Each public and participating nonpublic secondary school shall include the model college credit plus pathways developed under division (C)(1) of this section in the information required to be provided to students and parents under section 3365.04 of the Revised Code.

(D) The chancellor shall not distribute state share of instruction funds to a state university in any fiscal year in which it does not comply with this section, as determined by the chancellor.

Sec. 3352.16. (A)(1) The Wright state university center for civics, culture, and workforce development is established as an independent academic division within Wright state university,

physically located on the Dayton campus of Wright state university. The center shall conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and society and the United States armed forces.

(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center to do all of the following:

(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;

(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of social and political importance;

(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of the university;

(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that shall naturally exist in a public university community.

The requirements prescribed under divisions (A)(2)(a) to (d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws adopted by the center.

(3) The board of trustees of the university may name the center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and practices of the university.

~~(B)~~(B)(1) The center shall be an independent academic division, physically located on the Dayton campus of Wright state university, with the authority to house faculty who hold their appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the center shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within any other division of the university. No faculty outside of the center shall have the authority to block faculty hires into the center. No university policy shall govern the development and approval of curriculum within the center.

(2) The university shall provide adequate and appropriate space for the center as jointly determined by the director and either the president or provost of the university. The university shall not charge or assess overhead or indirect fees, costs, expenses, or charges to the center.

(C)(1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the following:

(a) The books and major debates which form the intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of the United States;

(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the American constitutional order, including the United States armed forces;

(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed citizenship;

(d) The origins, purpose, and role of Wright-Patterson air force base and surrounding defense-related industries in supporting the United States;

(e) The workforce needs of Wright-Patterson air force base and industries that support the base.

(2) The center also shall focus on all of the following:

(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the values of free speech and civil discourse;

(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the university's academic community;

(c) Increasing the awareness of Wright-Patterson air force base and supporting workforce needs to sustain and attract missions at the base.

(D)(1) ~~Not later than ninety days after the effective date of this section, the~~ The board of trustees of the university shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a seven-member center academic council. An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the senate. Four members shall form a quorum.

(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than three members of the council may be employees of the university. Best efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of the advisory board be from Ohio.

(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.

(E)(1) The academic council established under division (D) of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall submit to the president of the university a list of finalists from which the president shall select and appoint a director, subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors shall be chosen in the same manner.

(2) The director shall consult with the provost; however, the director shall report directly to the president of the university.

(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff of the center, and to terminate employment of all staff, subject to the approval of the board of trustees of the university. The director shall oversee, develop, and approve the center's curriculum, including approval of the center's courses that meet the university's general education requirements. The center shall be granted the authority to offer courses independently and develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate programs, and offer degrees.

(4) Notwithstanding section 3333.164 of the Revised Code, the center shall develop a set of standards and procedures to maximize the granting of academic credit for military training, experience, and coursework.

(5) Notwithstanding section 3333.31 of the Revised Code, Wright state university shall not charge more than its in-state instructional and general fees to any current or honorably discharged member of the United States armed forces, or the spouse or dependents of such a member, who enrolls in a program offered by the center, regardless of whether that member, spouse, or dependent is a resident of this state under rules adopted under section 3333.31 of the Revised Code.

(F) The director of the center shall submit an annual report to the board of trustees of the

university and the general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles in the development of this academic division.

Sec. 3354.19. ~~(A)~~ As used in sections 3354.19 to ~~3354.24~~3354.21 of the Revised Code, "displaced homemaker" means an individual who:

- (A) Is twenty-seven years of age or older;
- (B) Has worked without pay as a homemaker for his or her family;
- (C) Is not gainfully employed and has had, or would be likely to have, difficulty in securing employment; and
- (D) Has either been deprived of the support of a person on whom he or she was dependent, or has become ineligible for public assistance as the parent of a needy child.

Sec. 3358.08. The board of trustees of a state community college district may:

- (A) Own and operate a state community college;
- (B) Hold, encumber, control, acquire by donation, purchase or condemn, construct, own, lease, use, and sell, real and personal property as necessary for the conduct of the program of the state community college on whatever terms and for whatever consideration may be appropriate for the purpose of the institution;
- (C) Accept gifts, grants, bequests, and devises absolute or in trust for support of the state community college;
- (D) Employ a president, and appoint or approve the appointment of other necessary administrative officers, full-time faculty members, and operating staff. The board may delegate the appointment of operating staff and part-time faculty members to the college president. The board shall fix the rate of compensation of the president and all officers and full-time employees as are necessary and proper for state community colleges.
- (E) Provide for the state community college necessary lands, buildings, or other structures, equipment, means, and appliances;
- (F) Establish within the maximum amounts permitted by law, schedules of fees and tuition for students who are Ohio residents and students who are not; If electors approve a levy under section 3358.11 of the Revised Code for current operating expenses, the board shall charge students who reside in the county in which the tax is levied a lower tuition rate than the rate charged to students who are residents of other counties in the state.
- (G) Grant appropriate degrees to students successfully completing the state community college's programs, and certificates of achievement to students who complete other programs;
- (H) Prescribe policies for the effective operation of the state community college and exercise such other powers as are necessary for the efficient management of the college;
- (I) Enter into contracts with neighboring colleges and universities for the conduct of state community college programs or technical courses outside the state community college district;
- (J) Purchase:

(1) A policy or policies of insurance insuring the district against loss or damage to property, whether real, personal, or mixed, which is owned by the district or leased by it as lessee or which is in the process of construction by or for the district;

(2) A policy or policies of fidelity insurance in such amounts and covering such trustees, officers, and employees of the district as the board may consider necessary or desirable;

(3) A policy or policies of liability insurance from an insurer or insurers licensed to do business in this state insuring its members, officers, and employees against all civil liability arising from an act or omission by the member, officer, or employee, when the member, officer, or employee is not acting manifestly outside the scope of employment or official responsibilities with the institution, with malicious purpose or bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner, or may otherwise provide for the indemnification of such persons against such liability. All or any portion of the cost, premium, or charge for such a policy or policies or indemnification payment may be paid from any funds under the institution's control. The policy or policies of liability insurance or the indemnification policy of the institution may cover any risks including, but not limited to, damages resulting from injury to property or person, professional liability, and other special risks, including legal fees and expenses incurred in the defense or settlement claims of such damages.

(4) A policy or policies of insurance insuring the district against any liabilities to which it may be subject on account of damage or injury to persons or property, including liability for wrongful death.

Any instrument by which real property is acquired pursuant to this section shall identify the agency of the state that has the use and benefit of the real property as specified in section 5301.012 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3358.11. (A) In the same manner as a tax may be proposed by a board of trustees of a community college district under section 3354.12 of the Revised Code, the board of trustees of a state community college district may adopt and certify a resolution to the board of elections of one or more of the counties comprising the state community college district directing the board of elections to place on the ballot at any general or special election the question of levying a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation on all the taxable property in that county or those counties. The tax may be for any of the following purposes, as stated in the resolution:

(1) The acquisition of sites in that county or those counties;

(2) The erection, furnishing, and equipment of buildings in that county or those counties;

(3) The acquisition, construction, or improvement of any property in that county or those counties which the board of trustees of a state community college is authorized to acquire, construct, or improve and which has an estimated life or usefulness of five years or more as certified by the treasurer of the board of trustees;

(4) The payment of current expenses of the state community college district. This tax may only be levied in the county in which the main campus of the state community college is located.

The resolution shall declare that, if the levy is for one or more of the purposes described in

divisions (A)(1) to (3) of this section, the proceeds of the levy or issue may be used solely within the county or counties in which the tax is levied ~~and~~. If the levy is for the purpose described in division (A)(4) of this section, the resolution shall declare that the proceeds of the levy shall be used for costs associated with operations in the county in which the tax is levied. The resolution shall also state, regardless of the purposes for which the tax is levied, the term of the tax, which may be for any term authorized for a tax levied under section 3354.12 of the Revised Code. The question of such a tax may not be submitted at more than two special elections held in any one calendar year. Levies for a continuing period of time adopted under this section may be reduced in accordance with section 5705.261 of the Revised Code.

The election shall be held, canvassed, and certified in the manner provided for the submission of a tax levy under section 3354.12 of the Revised Code. A tax levied under this section may be renewed in the same manner as a tax levied under section 3354.12 of the Revised Code ~~or replaced in accordance with section 5705.192 of the Revised Code~~. *Rmb*

If electors approve the levy, the board of trustees may anticipate a fraction of the proceeds of the levy and may, from time to time, issue anticipation notes in the same manner and subject to the same limitations provided under section 3354.12 of the Revised Code.

(B) In accordance with Chapter 133. of the Revised Code, the board of trustees of a state community college district may adopt and certify a resolution to the board of elections of one or more of the counties comprising the district directing the board of elections to place on the ballot at any election authorized under section 133.18 of the Revised Code both of the following questions:

(1) The question of issuing bonds for paying all or part of the cost of the following:

- (a) The purchase of sites in that county or those counties;
- (b) The erection, furnishings, and equipment of buildings in that county or those counties;
- (c) The acquisition or construction of any property in that county or those counties which the board of trustees is authorized to acquire or construct and which has an estimated life or usefulness of five years or more as certified by the treasurer of the board of trustees.

(2) The question of levying a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation on all the taxable property in that county or those counties to pay the interest on and retire any bonds approved by the electors under division (B)(1) of this section.

The election shall be held, canvassed, and certified in the manner provided for the submission of a bond issuance and tax levy under section 3354.11 of the Revised Code. Bonds approved by electors under division (B)(1) of this section may be issued for one or more improvements which the district is authorized to acquire or construct, notwithstanding the fact that such improvements may not be for more than one purpose under Chapter 133. of the Revised Code.

Notes may be issued in anticipation of any bonds that may be approved by the electors under division (B)(1) of this section in the manner provided under section 133.22 of the Revised Code.

For the purpose of applying Chapter 133. of the Revised Code to division (B) of this section, the treasurer of the state community college district shall be considered to be the district's fiscal

The above boxed and initialed text was
disapproved.

JUNE 30, 2025
Date: *Mike DeWine*

officer, and the board of trustees of the state community college district shall be considered to be the taxing authority.

(C) The board of trustees of a state community college district that levies a tax or proposes to levy a tax under division (A) or (B) of this section shall be considered to be a taxing authority, the county or counties in which the tax is levied shall be considered to be a subdivision, and the treasurer of the board of trustees shall be considered to be a fiscal officer for the purposes of Chapter 5705. of the Revised Code, except for section 5705.19 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3364.07. ~~(A)(A)(1)~~ The institute of American constitutional thought and leadership is established for the purpose of creating and disseminating knowledge about American constitutional thought and to form future leaders of the legal profession through research, scholarship, teaching, collaboration, and mentorship. The institute shall be an independent academic unit within the university of Toledo, ~~initially physically located at the college of law. The university shall require the college of law to provide adequate administrative space for the institute.~~

(2) The university shall provide adequate and appropriate space for the institute as jointly determined by the director and either the president or provost of the university. The university shall not charge or assess overhead or indirect fees, costs, expenses, or charges to the institute.

(B) The institute shall pursue all of the following goals:

(1) To enrich the curriculum in American constitutional studies, including the core texts and great debates of western civilization;

(2) To educate university students in the principles, ideals, and institutions of the American and Ohio constitutional order;

(3) To educate university students in the foundations of responsible leadership and informed citizenship and to cultivate the next generation of leaders in the legal profession;

(4) To offer university-wide programming related to the values of open inquiry and civil discourse;

(5) To expand the intellectual diversity of the university's academic community and to create a rich forum for the development of ideas across the political and ideological spectrum;

(6) To support faculty and graduate student scholarship that advances understanding of American constitutional thought and institutions;

(7) To promote scholarly collaboration within the university and beyond;

(8) To host lectures, debates, and symposia, and sponsor visiting scholars, jurists, and teachers.

(C) The institute shall adhere to the following policies:

(1) The institute shall educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth.

(2) The institute shall equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of legal, social, and political importance.

(3) The institute shall value intellectual diversity in higher education, including in faculty

recruitment, hiring, and appointment, and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of academic life at the university.

(4) The institute shall create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that naturally occur in a public university community.

(D)(1) ~~Not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section~~, the The talent, compensation, and governance committee of the board of trustees of the university, if such a committee exists, shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a seven-member institute academic council. If no such committee exists, the board of trustees shall appoint members under this division. An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the senate. Four members shall form a quorum.

(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member of the council may be an employee of the university. Best efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of the council be from Ohio.

(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.

(4) To fill a vacancy for the institute director after the initial director, following a national search, the academic council shall transmit to the president a list of finalists from which the president shall select a director, subject to the approval of the talent, compensation, and governance committee of the board of trustees.

(E)(1) The institute shall be led by a director who shall report directly to the president and provost of the university ~~and consult with the dean of the college of law~~. The president of the university shall appoint ~~an initial~~ the director ~~not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section~~. The director shall be an expert of the western tradition, the American founding, and American constitutional thought, and shall have shown a commitment to the purposes, goals, and policies of the institute. The director's term shall be for five years and shall be renewable.

(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or tenure eligibility. Any existing tenure with the university held by a director shall be maintained with the university.

(F) The institute shall be an independent academic unit of the university with the authority to house tenure-track faculty who hold their appointments within the institute. Not fewer than five tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted to the institute. Faculty appointed within the institute shall not be required, but may be permitted, to hold joint or courtesy appointments within any other division of the university. No faculty from outside the institute shall have the authority to block faculty hires into the institute.

(G)(1) The director shall have the sole and exclusive authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff, and to terminate employment of all staff. The director shall oversee, develop, and approve the institute's curriculum,

including approval of the institute's courses that meet the university's general education requirements. The institute shall be granted the authority to offer courses and develop certificate, minor, major, and graduate programs, and offer degrees.

(2) Employment contracts offered under division (G)(1) of this section to tenure-track faculty appointed to the institute shall guarantee reappointment elsewhere in the university, at the same rank and compensation, in the event the institute is discontinued.

(H) The director of the institute shall submit an annual report to the board of trustees of the university and the general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the institute's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles in the development of this academic unit.

(I) The board of trustees of the university may change the name of the institute in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and practices of the university.

Sec. 3365.15. The chancellor of higher education and the department of education and workforce jointly shall do all of the following:

(A) Adopt data reporting guidelines specifying the types of data that public and participating nonpublic secondary schools and public and participating private colleges, including eligible out-of-state colleges participating in the program, must annually collect, report, and track under division (G) of section 3365.04 and division (H) of section 3365.05 of the Revised Code. The types of data shall include all of the following:

(1) For each secondary school and college:

(a) The number of participants disaggregated by grade level, socioeconomic status, race, gender, and disability;

(b) The number of completed courses and credit hours, disaggregated by the college in which participants were enrolled;

(c) The number of courses in which participants enrolled, disaggregated by subject area and level of difficulty.

(2) For each secondary school, the number of students who were denied participation in the program under division (A)(1)(a) or (C) of section 3365.03 or section 3365.031 or 3365.032 of the Revised Code. Each participating nonpublic secondary school shall also include the number of students who were denied participation due to the student not being awarded funding by the department pursuant to section 3365.071 of the Revised Code.

(3) For each college:

(a) The number of students who applied to enroll in the college under the program but were not granted admission;

(b) The average number of completed courses per participant;

(c) The average grade point average for participants in college courses under the program.

The guidelines adopted under this division shall also include policies and procedures for the collection, reporting, and tracking of such data.

(B) Annually compile the data required under division (A) of this section. Not later than the thirty-first day of December of each year, the data from the previous school year shall be posted in a prominent location on both the chancellor of higher education's and the department's web sites.

(C) Submit an annual report on outcomes of the college credit plus program that are supported by empirical evidence to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chairpersons of the education committees of the senate and house of representatives not later than the thirty-first day of December each year. The report shall include all of the following, disaggregated by cohort:

- (1) Number of degrees attained;
- (2) Level and type of degrees attained;
- (3) Number of students who receive a degree in two different subject areas;
- (4) Time to completion of a degree, disaggregated by level and type of degree attained;
- (5) Time to enrollment in a graduate or doctoral degree program;
- (6) The number of students who participate in a study abroad course;
- (7) How all of the measures described in division (C) of this section compare to both:
 - (a) The overall student population who did not participate in the college credit plus program;
 - (b) Any similar measures compiled under the former postsecondary enrollment options program, to the extent that such data is available.

The first report shall be submitted not later than December 31, 2018, and each subsequent report shall be submitted not later than the thirty-first day of December each year thereafter ~~until December 2023~~.

(D) Establish a college credit plus advisory committee to assist in the development of performance metrics and the monitoring of the program's progress. At least one member of the advisory committee shall be a school guidance counselor.

The chancellor shall also, in consultation with the department, create a standard packet of information for the college credit plus program directed toward students and parents that are interested in the program.

(E) The chancellor and the department also may submit a biennial report detailing the status of the college credit plus program, including an analysis of quality assurance measures related to the program, to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chairpersons of the education committees of the senate and house of representatives. If the chancellor and the department choose to jointly submit the biennial report, both of the following shall apply:

- (1) The report shall include only data available through the higher education information system administered by the chancellor.
- (2) The first report shall be submitted not later than December 31, 2017, and each subsequent report shall be submitted not later than the thirty-first day of December every two years thereafter.

(F) For purposes of this section, "cohort" means a group of students who participated in the college credit plus program and who, upon graduation from high school, enroll in an Ohio institution of higher education during the same academic year.

Sec. 3375.15. (A) In any school district in which a free public library has been established by resolution adopted by the board of education of such school district prior to September 4, 1947, or by resolution adopted by the board of education of such school district under section 3375.151 of the Revised Code after the effective date of this amendment but prior to January 1, 2014, such library shall be under the control and management of a board of library trustees consisting of seven members. No one is eligible to membership on such board of library trustees who is or has been for a year previous to appointment a member of a board of education making such appointment. A majority of the trustees shall be qualified electors of the school district, but a minority may be qualified electors of the county who reside outside the school district, and all shall be appointed by the board of education of the school district.

(B) The trustees shall serve ~~for a term of seven years and~~ without compensation. Trustees appointed prior to the effective date of this amendment shall serve for a term of seven years. Trustees appointed on or after that date shall serve for a term of four years. Except as otherwise provided in this section, all vacancies on the board of library trustees shall be filled by the board of education by appointment for the unexpired term. The board of library trustees shall organize in accordance with section 3375.32 of the Revised Code. The board of library trustees shall have the control and management of the school district free public library and in the exercise of such control and management shall be governed by sections 3375.33 to 3375.41 of the Revised Code. This section does not affect the term of any member of a board of library trustees of a school district free public library appointed prior to September 4, 1947.

(C) The board of education shall make appointments to the board of library trustees not later than forty-five days after the date a member's term expires or after the date a vacancy occurs, whichever is applicable. If the board of education does not make an appointment by that time, the appointment shall be made within the next fourteen days by the probate court of the county in which the library is situated.

Sec. 3375.22. In any county in which there has been created a county library district, the free public library of said district shall be under the control and management of a board of library trustees consisting of seven members. Such trustees shall be qualified electors of the library district or county. Three shall be appointed by the judges of the court of common pleas and four shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners of the county in which said district is situated. The term of office of said trustees, if appointed prior to the effective date of this amendment, shall be seven years, except that at the first appointment the terms of those appointed by the judges shall expire in two, four, and six years respectively, and the terms of those appointed by the board of county commissioners shall expire in one, three, five, and seven years respectively. The term of office of trustees appointed on or after the effective date of this amendment shall be four years,

except that at the first appointment the terms of those appointed by the judges shall expire in two, three, and four years respectively, and the terms of those appointed by the board of county commissioners shall expire in one, two, three, and four years respectively. Any appointment made to fill a vacancy shall be made by the same body which appointed the trustee whose place has become vacant and shall be for ~~his~~ the remainder of the unexpired term. The successor of any trustee of any county library district shall be appointed by the same board or officers which appointed ~~his~~ the trustee's predecessor and all subsequent appointments shall be for seven years. The members of such board of library trustees shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Such board of library trustees shall organize in accordance with section 3375.32 of the Revised Code. Such board of library trustees shall have the control and management of the county district free public library and in the exercise of such control and management shall be governed by sections 3375.33 to 3375.41; ~~inclusive~~, of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3375.30. In any two or more contiguous counties in which there has been created a regional library district, there shall be a board of library trustees consisting of seven members. Such trustees shall be qualified electors of the district. The first appointments to such board of library trustees shall be made by the boards of county commissioners of such counties in joint meeting. Thereafter each appointment to fill an expiring term shall be made by the board of county commissioners of a participating county in the rotating order represented by the alphabetical arrangement of the names of the counties. The term of office of said trustees, if appointed prior to the effective date of this amendment, shall be seven years, or, if appointed on or after that date, shall be four years, except that at the first appointment the terms must be such that one member retires each year. Any appointment made to fill a vacancy shall be made by the same body which appointed the trustee whose place has become vacant and shall be for ~~his~~ the remainder of the unexpired term. The members of such board of library trustees shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Such board of library trustees shall organize in accordance with section 3375.32 of the Revised Code. Such board of library trustees shall have the control and management of the regional district free public library and in exercise of such control and management shall be governed by sections 3375.33 to 3375.41; ~~inclusive~~, and section 3375.19 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3375.39. At the expiration of the term of a fiscal officer of a board of library trustees of a free public library or before such board approves the surety of any fiscal officer, such board shall require the fiscal officer to produce all money, bonds, or other securities in the fiscal officer's hands, which shall then be counted by the board or a committee of the board, ~~or by a representative of the auditor of state.~~ A certificate setting forth the exact amount of such money, bonds, or other securities and signed by the representatives making such count shall be entered upon the records of the board and shall be prima-facie evidence that the amount stated in such certificate is actually in the treasury at that date.

PMD
Sec. 3375.47. A public library created under Chapter 3375. of the Revised Code shall place material related to sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in a portion of the public library that is not primarily open to the view of persons under the age of eighteen.

Sec. 3375.92. The fiscal officer of the board of trustees of the regional library system is the treasurer of the organization's funds. Before entering upon their duties, the fiscal officer and the deputy fiscal officer shall execute a bond in an amount and with surety to be approved by the board, and conditioned for the faithful performance of the official duties required of them.

All moneys received by the fiscal officer shall be immediately placed by the fiscal officer in a depository designated by the board. The fiscal officer shall keep an account of the funds credited to the board.

The fiscal officer shall render a monthly statement to the board showing the revenues and receipts from whatever sources derived, the disbursements and the purposes for such disbursements, and the assets and liabilities of the board. At the end of each fiscal year the fiscal officer shall submit to the board, to the state library board and, if requested, to any granting authority, a complete financial statement showing the receipts and expenditures in detail for the entire fiscal year. Such financial records shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable times.

At the expiration of the term of the fiscal officer or before the board of trustees approves the surety of any fiscal officer, the board shall require the fiscal officer to produce all moneys, bonds, or other securities in the fiscal officer's hands, which shall then be counted by the board or a committee of the board, ~~or by a representative of the auditor of state~~. A certificate setting forth the exact amount of such money, bonds, or other securities and signed by the persons making such count shall be entered upon the records of the board and shall be prima-facie evidence that the amount stated in such certificate is actually in the treasury at that date.

PMD
Sec. 3379.03. The Ohio arts council shall:

(A) Conduct a survey of the cultural and artistic resources and needs of the state and maintain a continuing inventory of such resources;

(B) Develop a plan for better and fuller use and enjoyment of the state's cultural and artistic resources by all the people of the state;

(C) Assess the role of the arts in the growth and development of the state;

(D) Report at least biennially to the governor and the general assembly on the state of the arts. Such report may include recommendations based on the council's surveys.

(E) ~~Administer the per cent for arts program pursuant to section 3379.10 of the Revised Code;~~

(F) ~~Establish guidelines for the administration of the council's duties that pertain to the position of Ohio poet laureate pursuant to section 3379.12 of the Revised Code and for the qualifications of the Ohio poet laureate appointed under that section.~~

Sec. 3379.12. (A) The position of Ohio poet laureate is hereby created. The Ohio poet laureate shall be appointed by the governor from a list of not less than ~~three~~ candidates

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recommended by the Ohio arts council based on qualifications developed by the arts council under division ~~(F)~~(E) of section 3379.03 of the Revised Code. The arts council shall submit its list of candidates to the governor not less than ninety days prior to the beginning of the Ohio poet laureate's term of office.

(B) The term of office for the Ohio poet laureate shall be for two years. The initial term shall begin on January 1, 2016.

(C) In the event of the death, resignation, or any other vacancy or inability to perform the duties of Ohio poet laureate during an individual's unexpired term of office, not later than sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the Ohio arts council shall recommend a candidate to the governor to serve as poet laureate for the remainder of that unexpired term of office.

(D) An individual may be reappointed to subsequent terms of office, at the discretion of the governor.

Sec. 3381.03. Any county, or any two or more counties, municipal corporations, or townships, or any combination of these may create a regional arts and cultural district by the adoption of a resolution or ordinance by the board of county commissioners of each county, the legislative authority of each municipal corporation, and the board of township trustees of each township that desires to create or to join in the creation of the district. The resolution or ordinance shall state all of the following:

(A) The purposes for the creation of the district;

(B) The counties, municipal corporations, or townships that are to be included in the district;

(C) The official name by which the district shall be known;

(D) The location of the principal office of the district or the manner in which the location shall be selected;

(E) Subject to section 3381.05 of the Revised Code, the number, term, and compensation, which shall not exceed the sum of fifty dollars for each board and committee meeting attended by a member, of the members of the board of trustees of the district;

(F) Subject to section 3381.05 of the Revised Code, the manner in which members of the board of trustees of the district shall be appointed; the method of filling vacancies; and the period, if any, for which a trustee continues in office after expiration of the trustee's term pending the appointment of the trustee's successor;

(G) The manner of apportioning expenses of the district among the participating counties, municipal corporations, and townships.

The resolution or ordinance may also provide that the authority of the districts to make grants under section 3381.20 of the Revised Code may be totally or partially delegated to one or more area arts councils, as defined in section 757.03 of the Revised Code, located within the district.

The district provided for in the resolution or ordinance shall be created upon the adoption of the resolution or ordinance by the board of county commissioners of each county, the legislative authority of each municipal corporation, and the board of township trustees of each township

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enumerated in the resolution or ordinance. The resolution or ordinance may be amended to include additional counties, municipal corporations, or townships or for any other purpose by the adoption of an amendment by the board of county commissioners of each county, the legislative authority of each municipal corporation, and the board of township trustees of each township that has created or joined or proposes to join the district.

After each county, municipal corporation, and township has adopted a resolution or ordinance approving inclusion of additional counties, municipal corporations, or townships in the district, a copy of the resolution or ordinance shall be filed with the clerk of the board of the county commissioners of each county, the clerk of the legislative authority of each municipal corporation, and the fiscal officer of the board of trustees of each township proposed to be included in the district. The inclusion is effective when all such filing is completed unless the district to which territory is to be added has authority to levy an ad valorem tax on property within its territory, in which event the inclusion shall become effective upon voter approval of the joinder and the tax.

If a tax on property is to be levied, the board and the county auditor shall proceed in the same manner as required for a tax levy under section 5705.03 of the Revised Code, except that the levy's annual collections shall be estimated assuming that the additional territory has been added to the district. The board of trustees shall promptly certify the proposal and the auditor's certification to the board or boards of elections for the purpose of having the proposal placed on the ballot at the next general or primary election that occurs not less than sixty days after the date of the meeting of the board of trustees, or at a special election held on a date specified in the certification that is not less than sixty days after the date of the meeting of the board. If territory of more than one county, municipal corporation, or township is to be added to the regional arts and cultural district, the electors of the territories of the counties, municipal corporations, or townships which are to be added shall vote as a district, and the outcome of the election shall be determined by the vote cast in the entire district. Upon certification of a proposal to the board or boards of elections pursuant to this section, the board or boards of elections shall make the necessary arrangements for the submission of the questions to the electors of the territory to be added to the district, and the election shall be held, canvassed, and certified in the manner provided for the submission of tax levies under section 5705.19 of the Revised Code, except that the question appearing on the ballot shall read:

"Shall the territory within the _____ (name or names of political subdivisions to be joined) be added to _____ (name) regional arts and cultural district? And shall a property tax that the county auditor estimates will collect \$_____ annually at a rate not exceeding _____ mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$_____ (effective rate) for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's ~~appraised-market~~ value, be levied for purposes of such district?"

If the question is approved by a majority of the electors voting on the question, the joinder is effective immediately, and the district may extend the levy of the tax against all the taxable property within the territory that has been added. If the question is approved at a general election or at a

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special election occurring prior to a general election but after the fifteenth day of July in any calendar year, the district may amend its budget and resolution adopted pursuant to section 5705.34 of the Revised Code, and the levy shall be placed on the current tax list and duplicate and collected as other taxes are collected from all taxable property within the territory of the district, including the territory added as a result of the election.

The territory of a district shall be coextensive with the territory of the counties, municipal corporations, and townships included within the district, provided that the same territory may not be included in more than one regional arts and cultural district, and provided, that if a district includes only a portion of an entire county, a district may be created in the remaining portion of the same county by resolution of the board of county commissioners acting alone or in conjunction with municipal corporations and townships as provided in this section.

As used in this section, "the county auditor's ~~appraised-market~~ value" and "effective rate" have the same meanings as in section 5705.01 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3381.11. The board of trustees of a regional arts and cultural district or any officer or employee designated by such board may make any contract for the purchase of supplies or material or for labor for any work, under the supervision of the board, the cost of which shall not exceed ten thousand dollars. When an expenditure, other than for the acquisition of real estate, the discharge of noncontractual claims, personal services, or for the product or services of public utilities, exceeds ten thousand dollars, such expenditure shall be made only after a notice calling for bids has been published once a week for two consecutive weeks in one newspaper of general circulation within the territory of the district or as provided in section 7.16 of the Revised Code. The board may then let said contract to the lowest and best bidder, who shall give a good and approved bond with ample security conditioned on the carrying out of the contract. Such contract shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by or shall refer to plans and specifications for the work to be done, approved by the board. The plans and specifications shall at all times be made and considered part of the contract. The contract shall be approved by the board and signed on behalf of the district and by the contractor. No sale of any real or personal property or a lease thereof having a term thereof in excess of five years shall be made except with the highest and best bidder after publication of notice for bids in the manner above provided.

Competitive bidding under this section is not required when:

(A) The board, by a two-thirds affirmative vote of its members, determines that a real and present emergency exists and such determination and the reasons therefor are entered in the proceedings of the board, when:

- (1) The estimated cost is less than fifteen thousand dollars; or
- (2) There is actual physical damage to structures or equipment.

(B) Such purchase consists of supplies or a replacement or supplemental part or parts for a product or equipment owned or leased by the district and the only source of supply for such supplies, part, or parts is limited to a single supplier;

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(C) The lease is a renewal of a lease for electronic data processing equipment, services, or systems;

(D) Services or supplies are available from a qualified nonprofit agency pursuant to ~~sections 4115.31 to 4115.35~~ section 125.601 of the Revised Code;

(E) With respect to any contract, agreement, or lease by a district with any arts or cultural organization or any governmental body or agency.

Sec. 3381.17. From the funds available therefor from a tax levy authorized under section 3381.16 or, if applicable, sections 5743.021, and 5743.321, ~~5743.511, 5743.621, and 5743.631~~ of the Revised Code, a regional arts and cultural district by action of its board of trustees shall make annual grants to support the operating or capital expenses of such of the arts or cultural organizations located within the territory of the district as the board of trustees shall determine; provided, however, that not more than ten per cent of the amount granted in any calendar year shall be granted to arts and cultural organizations that are not qualifying arts or cultural organizations; and further provided that prior to making any grants in any calendar year, the board of trustees shall afford an opportunity for the presentation, either in person or in writing, of the suggestions of any area arts council, as defined in section 757.03 of the Revised Code, located within the district. Any such grant to an arts or cultural organization shall be on such terms and conditions as the board considers advisable.

Sec. 3501.01. As used in the sections of the Revised Code relating to elections and political communications:

(A) "General election" means the election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in each November.

(B) "Regular municipal election" means the election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each odd-numbered year.

(C) "Regular state election" means the election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each even-numbered year.

(D) "Special election" means any election other than those elections defined in other divisions of this section. A special election may be held only on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May or November, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August in accordance with section 3501.022 of the Revised Code, or on the day authorized by a particular municipal or county charter for the holding of a primary election, except that in any year in which a presidential primary election is held, no special election shall be held in May, except as authorized by a municipal or county charter, but may be held on the third Tuesday after the first Monday in March.

(E)(1) "Primary" or "primary election" means an election held for the purpose of nominating persons as candidates of political parties for election to offices, and for the purpose of electing persons as members of the controlling committees of political parties and as delegates and alternates to the conventions of political parties. Primary elections shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May of each year except in years in which a presidential primary election is held.

(2) "Presidential primary election" means a primary election as defined by division (E)(1) of

this section at which an election is held for the purpose of choosing delegates and alternates to the national conventions of the major political parties pursuant to section 3513.12 of the Revised Code. Unless otherwise specified, presidential primary elections are included in references to primary elections. In years in which a presidential primary election is held, all primary elections shall be held on the third Tuesday after the first Monday in March except as otherwise authorized by a municipal or county charter.

(F) "Political party" means any group of voters meeting the requirements set forth in section 3517.01 of the Revised Code for the formation and existence of a political party.

(1) "Major political party" means any political party organized under the laws of this state whose candidate for governor or nominees for presidential electors received not less than twenty per cent of the total vote cast for such office at the most recent regular state election.

(2) "Minor political party" means any political party organized under the laws of this state that meets either of the following requirements:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this division, the political party's candidate for governor or nominees for presidential electors received less than twenty per cent but not less than three per cent of the total vote cast for such office at the most recent regular state election. A political party that meets the requirements of this division remains a political party for a period of four years after meeting those requirements.

(b) The political party has filed with the secretary of state, subsequent to its failure to meet the requirements of division (F)(2)(a) of this section, a petition that meets the requirements of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code.

A newly formed political party shall be known as a minor political party until the time of the first election for governor or president which occurs not less than twelve months subsequent to the formation of such party, after which election the status of such party shall be determined by the vote for the office of governor or president.

(G) "Dominant party in a precinct" or "dominant political party in a precinct" means that political party whose candidate for election to the office of governor at the most recent regular state election at which a governor was elected received more votes than any other person received for election to that office in such precinct at such election.

(H) "Candidate" means any qualified person certified in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Code for placement on the official ballot of a primary, general, or special election to be held in this state, or any qualified person who claims to be a write-in candidate, or who knowingly assents to being represented as a write-in candidate by another at either a primary, general, or special election to be held in this state.

(I) "Independent candidate" means any candidate who claims not to be affiliated with a political party, and whose name has been certified on the office-type ballot at a general or special election through the filing of a statement of candidacy and nominating petition, as prescribed in section 3513.257 of the Revised Code.

(J) "Nonpartisan candidate" means any candidate whose name is required, pursuant to section 3505.04 of the Revised Code, to be listed on the nonpartisan ballot, including all candidates for judge of a municipal court, county court, or court of common pleas, ~~for member of any board of education,~~ for municipal or township offices in which primary elections are not held for nominating candidates by political parties, and for offices of municipal corporations having charters that provide for separate ballots for elections for these offices.

(K) "Party candidate" means any candidate who claims to be a member of a political party and who has been certified to appear on the office-type ballot at a general or special election as the nominee of a political party because the candidate has won the primary election of the candidate's party for the public office the candidate seeks, has been nominated under section 3517.012, or is selected by party committee in accordance with section 3513.31 of the Revised Code.

(L) "Officer of a political party" includes, but is not limited to, any member, elected or appointed, of a controlling committee, whether representing the territory of the state, a district therein, a county, township, a city, a ward, a precinct, or other territory, of a major or minor political party.

(M) "Question or issue" means any question or issue certified in accordance with the Revised Code for placement on an official ballot at a general or special election to be held in this state.

(N) "Elector" or "qualified elector" means a person having the qualifications provided by law to be entitled to vote.

(O) "Voter" means an elector who votes at an election.

(P) "Voting residence" means that place of residence of an elector which shall determine the precinct in which the elector may vote.

(Q) "Precinct" means a district within a county established by the board of elections of such county within which all qualified electors having a voting residence therein may vote at the same polling place.

(R) "Polling place" means that place provided for each precinct at which the electors having a voting residence in such precinct may vote.

(S) "Board" or "board of elections" means the board of elections appointed in a county pursuant to section 3501.06 of the Revised Code.

(T) "Political subdivision" means a county, township, city, village, or school district.

(U) "Election officer" or "election official" means any of the following:

(1) Secretary of state;

(2) Employees of the secretary of state serving the division of elections in the capacity of attorney, administrative officer, administrative assistant, elections administrator, office manager, or clerical supervisor;

(3) Director of a board of elections;

(4) Deputy director of a board of elections;

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- (5) Member of a board of elections;
- (6) Employees of a board of elections;
- (7) Precinct election officials;
- (8) Employees appointed by the boards of elections on a temporary or part-time basis.

(V) "Acknowledgment notice" means a notice sent by a board of elections, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, informing a voter registration applicant or an applicant who wishes to change the applicant's residence or name of the status of the application; the information necessary to complete or update the application, if any; and if the application is complete, the precinct in which the applicant is to vote.

(W) "Confirmation notice" means a notice sent by a board of elections, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, to a registered elector to confirm the registered elector's current address.

(X) "Designated agency" means an office or agency in the state that provides public assistance or that provides state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities and that is required by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to implement a program designed and administered by the secretary of state for registering voters, or any other public or government office or agency that implements a program designed and administered by the secretary of state for registering voters, including the department of job and family services, the program administered under section 3701.132 of the Revised Code by the department of health, the department of mental health and addiction services, the department of developmental disabilities, the opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities agency, and any other agency the secretary of state designates. "Designated agency" does not include public high schools and vocational schools, public libraries, or the office of a county treasurer.

(Y) "National Voter Registration Act of 1993" means the "National Voter Registration Act of 1993," 107 Stat. 77, 42 U.S.C.A. 1973gg.

(Z) "Voting Rights Act of 1965" means the "Voting Rights Act of 1965," 79 Stat. 437, 42 U.S.C.A. 1973, as amended.

(AA)(1) "Photo identification" means one of the following documents that includes the individual's name and photograph and is not expired:

(a) An Ohio driver's license, state identification card, or interim identification form issued by the registrar of motor vehicles or a deputy registrar under Chapter 4506. or 4507. of the Revised Code;

(b) A United States passport or passport card;

(c) A United States military identification card, Ohio national guard identification card, or United States department of veterans affairs identification card.

(2) A "copy" of an individual's photo identification means images of both the front and back of a document described in division (AA)(1) of this section, except that if the document is a United States passport, a copy of the photo identification means an image of the passport's identification page that includes the individual's name, photograph, and other identifying information and the

passport's expiration date.

(BB) "Driver's license" means a license or permit issued by the registrar or a deputy registrar under Chapter 4506. or 4507. of the Revised Code that authorizes an individual to drive. "Driver's license" includes a driver's license, commercial driver's license, probationary license, restricted license, motorcycle operator's license, or temporary instruction permit identification card. "Driver's license" does not include a limited term license issued under section 4506.14 or 4507.09 of the Revised Code.

(CC) "State identification card" means a card issued by the registrar or a deputy registrar under sections 4507.50 to 4507.52 of the Revised Code.

(DD) "Interim identification form" means the document issued by the registrar or a deputy registrar to an applicant for a driver's license or state identification card that contains all of the information otherwise found on the license or card and that an applicant may use as a form of identification until the physical license or card arrives in the mail.

Sec. 3501.02. General elections in the state and its political subdivisions shall be held as follows:

(A) For the election of electors of president and vice-president of the United States, in the year of 1932 and every four years thereafter;

(B) For the election of a member of the senate of the United States, in the years 1932 and 1934, and every six years after each of such years; except as otherwise provided for filling vacancies;

(C) For the election of representatives in the congress of the United States and of elective state and county officers ~~including elected members of the state board of education~~, in the even-numbered years; except as otherwise provided for filling vacancies;

(D) For municipal and township officers, members of boards of education, judges and clerks of municipal courts, in the odd-numbered years;

(E) Proposed constitutional amendments or proposed measures submitted by the general assembly or by initiative or referendum petitions to the voters of the state at large may be submitted to the general election in any year occurring at least ~~sixty days, in case of a referendum, and ninety one hundred twenty-five days, in the case of an initiated measure~~, subsequent to the filing of the petitions therefor. Proposed constitutional amendments submitted by the general assembly to the voters of the state at large may be submitted at a special election occurring on the day in any year specified by division (E) of section 3501.01 of the Revised Code for the holding of a primary election, when a special election on that date is designated by the general assembly in the resolution adopting the proposed constitutional amendment.

No special election shall be held on a day other than the day of a general election, unless a law or charter provides otherwise, regarding the submission of a question or issue to the voters of a county, township, city, village, or school district.

(F)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of the Revised Code to the contrary, any question or

issue, except a candidacy, to be voted upon at an election shall be certified, for placement upon the ballot, to the board of elections not later than four p.m. of the ninetieth day before the day of the election.

(2) Any question or issue that is certified for placement on a ballot on or after ~~the effective date of this amendment~~ July 2, 2010, shall be certified not later than the ninetieth day before the day of the applicable election, notwithstanding any deadlines appearing in any section of the Revised Code governing the placement of that question or issue on the ballot.

Sec. 3501.05. The secretary of state shall do all of the following:

- (A) Appoint all members of boards of elections;
- (B) Issue instructions by directives and advisories in accordance with section 3501.053 of the Revised Code to members of the boards as to the proper methods of conducting elections.
- (C) Prepare rules and instructions for the conduct of elections;
- (D) Publish and furnish to the boards from time to time a sufficient number of indexed copies of all election laws then in force;
- (E) Edit and issue all pamphlets concerning proposed laws or amendments required by law to be submitted to the voters;
- (F) Prescribe the form of registration cards, blanks, and records;
- (G) Determine and prescribe the forms of ballots and the forms of all blanks, cards of instructions, pollbooks, tally sheets, certificates of election, and forms and blanks required by law for use by candidates, committees, and boards;
- (H) Prepare the ballot title or statement to be placed on the ballot for any proposed law or amendment to the constitution to be submitted to the voters of the state;
- (I) Except as otherwise provided in section 3519.08 of the Revised Code, certify to the several boards the forms of ballots and names of candidates for state offices, and the form and wording of state referendum questions and issues, as they shall appear on the ballot;
- (J) Except as otherwise provided in division (I)(2)(b) of section 3501.38 of the Revised Code, give final approval to ballot language for any local question or issue approved and transmitted by boards of elections under section 3501.11 of the Revised Code;
- (K) Receive all initiative and referendum petitions on state questions and issues and determine and certify to the sufficiency of those petitions;
- (L) Require such reports from the several boards as are provided by law, or as the secretary of state considers necessary;
- (M) Compel the observance by election officers in the several counties of the requirements of the election laws;
- (N)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (N)(2) of this section, through the election integrity unit created under section 3501.055 of the Revised Code, investigate the administration of election laws, frauds, and irregularities in elections in any county, and report violations of election laws to the attorney general or prosecuting attorney, or both, for prosecution;

~~(2) On and after August 24, 1995, report a failure to comply with or a~~ Receive and process complaints regarding any alleged violation of a provision in sections 3517.08 to 3517.13, 3517.20 to 3517.22, 3599.03, or 3599.031 of the Revised Code, whenever the secretary of state has or should have knowledge of a failure to comply with or a violation of a provision in one of those sections, by filing a complaint with the Ohio elections commission under section 3517.153 of law over which the Ohio election integrity commission has jurisdiction, in accordance with sections 3517.14 to 3517.18 of the Revised Code.

(O) Make an annual report to the governor containing the results of elections, the cost of elections in the various counties, a tabulation of the votes in the several political subdivisions, and other information and recommendations relative to elections the secretary of state considers desirable;

(P) Prescribe and distribute to boards of elections a list of instructions indicating all legal steps necessary to petition successfully for local option elections under sections 4301.32 to 4301.41, 4303.29, 4305.14, and 4305.15 of the Revised Code;

(Q) Adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code for the removal by boards of elections of ineligible voters from the statewide voter registration database and, if applicable, from the poll list or signature pollbook used in each precinct, which rules shall provide for all of the following:

(1) A process for the removal of voters who have changed residence, which shall be uniform, nondiscriminatory, and in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, including a program that uses the national change of address service provided by the United States postal system through its licensees;

(2) A process for the removal of ineligible voters under section 3503.21 of the Revised Code;

(3) A uniform system for marking or removing the name of a voter who is ineligible to vote from the statewide voter registration database and, if applicable, from the poll list or signature pollbook used in each precinct and noting the reason for that mark or removal.

(R)(1) Prescribe a general program for registering voters or updating voter registration information, such as name and residence changes, by boards of elections, designated agencies, public high schools and vocational schools, public libraries, and offices of county treasurers consistent with the requirements of section 3503.09 of the Revised Code;

(2) Prescribe a general program for registering voters or updating voter registration information through the registrar of motor vehicles and deputy registrars, consistent with the requirements of section 3503.11 of the Revised Code.

(S) Prescribe a program of distribution of voter registration forms through boards of elections, designated agencies, offices of the registrar and deputy registrars of motor vehicles, public high schools and vocational schools, public libraries, and offices of county treasurers;

(T) To the extent feasible, provide copies, at no cost and upon request, of the voter

registration form in post offices in this state;

(U) Adopt rules pursuant to section 111.15 of the Revised Code for the purpose of implementing the programs for registering voters through boards of elections, designated agencies, and the offices of the registrar and deputy registrars of motor vehicles consistent with this chapter;

(V) Establish the full-time position of Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator within the office of the secretary of state to do all of the following:

(1) Assist the secretary of state with ensuring that there is equal access to polling places for persons with disabilities;

(2) Assist the secretary of state with ensuring that each voter may cast the voter's ballot in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and independence, as for other voters;

(3) Advise the secretary of state in the development of standards for the certification of voting machines, marking devices, and automatic tabulating equipment.

(W) Establish and maintain a computerized statewide database of all legally registered voters under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code that complies with the requirements of the "Help America Vote Act of 2002," Pub. L. No. 107-252, 116 Stat. 1666, and provide training in the operation of that system;

(X) Ensure that all directives, advisories, other instructions, or decisions issued or made during or as a result of any conference or teleconference call with a board of elections to discuss the proper methods and procedures for conducting elections, to answer questions regarding elections, or to discuss the interpretation of directives, advisories, or other instructions issued by the secretary of state are posted on a web site of the office of the secretary of state as soon as is practicable after the completion of the conference or teleconference call, but not later than the close of business on the same day as the conference or teleconference call takes place.

(Y) Publish a report on a web site of the office of the secretary of state not later than one month after the completion of the canvass of the election returns for each primary and general election, identifying, by county, the number of absent voter's ballots cast and the number of those ballots that were counted, and the number of provisional ballots cast and the number of those ballots that were counted, for that election. The secretary of state shall maintain the information on the web site in an archive format for each subsequent election.

(Z) Conduct voter education outlining voter identification, absent voters ballot, provisional ballot, and other voting requirements;

(AA) Establish a procedure by which a registered elector may make available to a board of elections a more recent signature to be used in the poll list or signature pollbook produced by the board of elections of the county in which the elector resides;

(BB) Disseminate information, which may include all or part of the official explanations and arguments, by means of direct mail or other written publication, broadcast, or other means or combination of means, as directed by the Ohio ballot board under division (F) of section 3505.062 of

the Revised Code, in order to inform the voters as fully as possible concerning each proposed constitutional amendment, proposed law, or referendum;

(CC) Be the single state office responsible for the implementation of the "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act," Pub. L. No. 99-410, 100 Stat. 924, 42 U.S.C. 1973ff, et seq., as amended, in this state. The secretary of state may delegate to the boards of elections responsibilities for the implementation of that act, including responsibilities arising from amendments to that act made by the "Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act," Subtitle H of the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010," Pub. L. No. 111-84, 123 Stat. 3190.

(DD) Adopt rules, under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, to establish procedures and standards for determining when a board of elections shall be placed under the official oversight of the secretary of state, placing a board of elections under the official oversight of the secretary of state, a board that is under official oversight to transition out of official oversight, and the secretary of state to supervise a board of elections that is under official oversight of the secretary of state.

(EE) Perform other duties required by law.

Whenever a primary election is held under section 3513.32 of the Revised Code or a special election is held under section 3521.03 of the Revised Code to fill a vacancy in the office of representative to congress, the secretary of state shall establish a deadline, notwithstanding any other deadline required under the Revised Code, by which any or all of the following shall occur: the filing of a declaration of candidacy and petitions or a statement of candidacy and nominating petition together with the applicable filing fee; the filing of protests against the candidacy of any person filing a declaration of candidacy or nominating petition; the filing of a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate; the filing of campaign finance reports; the preparation of, and the making of corrections or challenges to, precinct voter registration lists; the receipt of applications for absent voter's ballots or uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots; the supplying of election materials to precincts by boards of elections; the holding of hearings by boards of elections to consider challenges to the right of a person to appear on a voter registration list; and the scheduling of programs to instruct or reinstruct election officers.

In the performance of the secretary of state's duties as the chief election officer, the secretary of state may administer oaths, issue subpoenas, summon witnesses, compel the production of books, papers, records, and other evidence, and fix the time and place for hearing any matters relating to the administration and enforcement of the election laws, including for the purposes described in division (N)(2) of this section.

In any controversy involving or arising out of the adoption of registration or the appropriation of funds for registration, the secretary of state may, through the attorney general, bring an action in the name of the state in the court of common pleas of the county where the cause of action arose or in an adjoining county, to adjudicate the question.

In any action involving the laws in Title XXXV of the Revised Code wherein the interpretation of those laws is in issue in such a manner that the result of the action will affect the

lawful duties of the secretary of state or of any board of elections, the secretary of state may, on the secretary of state's motion, be made a party.

The secretary of state may apply to any court that is hearing a case in which the secretary of state is a party, for a change of venue as a substantive right, and the change of venue shall be allowed, and the case removed to the court of common pleas of an adjoining county named in the application or, if there are cases pending in more than one jurisdiction that involve the same or similar issues, the court of common pleas of Franklin county.

Public high schools and vocational schools, public libraries, and the office of a county treasurer shall implement voter registration programs as directed by the secretary of state pursuant to this section.

Sec. 3501.055. (A) There is in the office of the secretary of state the election integrity unit.

(B) Under the direction of the secretary of state, the election integrity unit shall do all of the following:

(1) Investigate alleged violations of Title XXXV of the Revised Code on the unit's own initiative, upon receiving a complaint under this section, or upon the filing of a complaint with the secretary of state under section 3517.16 of the Revised Code;

(2) Allow the public to submit allegations of violations of Title XXXV of the Revised Code to the unit;

(3) Submit a report to the governor and the general assembly not later than the fifteenth day of January of each year. The report shall include all of the following with respect to the previous calendar year:

(a) The number of allegations the unit received from members of the public;

(b) The number of allegations the unit investigated on its own initiative;

(c) The number of allegations the unit referred to another agency for further investigation or prosecution;

(d) All of the following concerning each allegation:

(i) The general nature of the allegation;

(ii) The county in which the violation is alleged to have occurred;

(iii) Whether the allegation has been referred to another agency for further investigation or prosecution, and if so, to which agency;

(iv) The current status of the investigation or any resulting criminal or civil proceeding.

(C) In performing its duties, the election integrity unit may administer oaths, issue subpoenas, summon witnesses, compel the production of books, papers, records, and other evidence, and hold hearings.

(D) Within one year after receiving a referral for further investigation or prosecution from the election integrity unit, the prosecuting attorney shall either prosecute the violation or provide to the election integrity unit a written statement explaining the reason for declining to prosecute the referral or requesting any additional evidence needed to meet the prima facie standard established

The above boxed and initialed text was

disapproved.

Date: 6/30/25

Mike DeWine

Mike DeWine, Governor

Revised

under section 3599.42 of the Revised Code. If the prosecuting attorney declines to prosecute the violation within one year after receiving the referral, the election integrity unit may refer the violation to the attorney general for further investigation or prosecution. If the prosecuting attorney or the attorney general requests additional evidence, the election integrity unit shall provide such evidence, if available, within ninety days after receiving the request. Within one hundred eighty days after receiving the additional evidence, the prosecuting attorney either shall prosecute the violation or provide a written statement to the election integrity unit explaining a reason for declining to prosecute. If the prosecuting attorney fails to provide this statement or prosecute within one hundred eighty days after receiving the additional evidence, the election integrity unit may refer the violation to the attorney general for further investigation or prosecution.

Sec. 3501.12. (A) The annual compensation of members of the board of elections shall be determined on the basis of the population of the county according to the next preceding federal census, and shall be paid monthly out of the appropriations made to the board and upon vouchers or payrolls certified by the chairperson, or a member of the board designated by it, and countersigned by the director or in the director's absence by the deputy director. Upon presentation of any such voucher or payroll, the county auditor shall issue a warrant upon the county treasurer for the amount thereof as in the case of vouchers or payrolls for county offices and the treasurer shall pay such warrant.

(B) In calendar year 2018, the amount of annual compensation of each member of the board of elections shall be the greater of the following:

(1) The sum of the following:

(a) One hundred two dollars and forty-one cents for each full one thousand of the first one hundred thousand population;

(b) Forty-eight dollars and seventy-nine cents for each full one thousand of the second one hundred thousand population;

(c) Twenty-six dollars and fifty cents for each full one thousand of the third one hundred thousand population;

(d) Eight dollars and thirteen cents for each full one thousand above three hundred thousand population.

(2) Six thousand dollars.

(C) The annual compensation of each member of the board shall be computed after increasing the dollar amounts specified in divisions (B)(1) and (2) of this section as follows:

(1) In calendar year 2019 and in each calendar year thereafter through calendar year 2028~~2025, the annual compensation of each member of the board shall be computed after increasing the dollar amounts specified in divisions (B)(1) and (2) of this section by one and three-quarters per cent;~~

(2) In calendar year 2026 and in each calendar year thereafter through calendar year 2029, by five per cent.

The above boxed and initialed text was
disapproved.

Date: *6/30/25*

Mike DeWine

Mike DeWine, Governor

(D) For the purposes of this section, members of boards of elections shall be deemed to be appointed and not elected, and therefore not subject to Section 20 of Article II of the Ohio Constitution.

Sec. 3501.17. (A) The expenses of the board of elections shall be paid from the county treasury, in pursuance of appropriations by the board of county commissioners, in the same manner as other county expenses are paid. If the board of county commissioners fails to appropriate an amount sufficient to provide for the necessary and proper expenses of the board of elections pertaining to the conduct of elections, the board of elections may apply to the court of common pleas within the county, which shall fix the amount necessary to be appropriated and the amount shall be appropriated. Payments shall be made upon vouchers of the board of elections certified to by its chairperson or acting chairperson and the director or deputy director, upon warrants of the county auditor.

The board of elections shall not incur any obligation involving the expenditure of money unless there are moneys sufficient in the funds appropriated therefor to meet the obligation. If the board of elections requests a transfer of funds from one of its appropriation items to another, the board of county commissioners shall adopt a resolution providing for the transfer except as otherwise provided in section 5705.40 of the Revised Code. The expenses of the board of elections shall be apportioned among the county and the various subdivisions as provided in this section, and the amount chargeable to each subdivision shall be paid as provided in division (J) of this section or withheld by the county auditor from the moneys payable thereto at the time of the next tax settlement. At the time of submitting budget estimates in each year, the board of elections shall submit to the taxing authority of each subdivision, upon the request of the subdivision, an estimate of the amount to be paid or withheld from the subdivision during the current or next fiscal year.

A board of township trustees may, by resolution, request that the county auditor withhold expenses charged to the township from a specified township fund that is to be credited with revenue at a tax settlement. The resolution shall specify the tax levy ballot issue, the date of the election on the levy issue, and the township fund from which the expenses the board of elections incurs related to that ballot issue shall be withheld.

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (F) of this section, the compensation of the members of the board of elections and of the director, deputy director, and regular employees in the board's offices, other than compensation for overtime worked; the expenditures for the rental, furnishing, and equipping of the office of the board and for the necessary office supplies for the use of the board; the expenditures for the acquisition, repair, care, and custody of the polling places, booths, guardrails, and other equipment for polling places; the cost of tally sheets, maps, flags, ballot boxes, and all other permanent records and equipment; the cost of all elections held in and for the state and county; and all other expenses of the board which are not chargeable to a political subdivision in accordance with this section shall be paid in the same manner as other county expenses are paid.

(C) The compensation of precinct election officials and intermittent employees in the board's offices; the cost of renting, moving, heating, and lighting polling places and of placing and removing ballot boxes and other fixtures and equipment thereof, including voting machines, marking devices, and automatic tabulating equipment; the cost of printing and delivering ballots, cards of instructions, registration lists required under section 3503.23 of the Revised Code, and other election supplies, including the supplies required to comply with division (H) of section 3506.01 of the Revised Code; the cost of contractors engaged by the board to prepare, program, test, and operate voting machines, marking devices, and automatic tabulating equipment; and all other expenses of conducting primaries and elections in the odd-numbered years shall be charged to the subdivisions in and for which such primaries or elections are held. The charge for each primary or general election in odd-numbered years for each subdivision shall be determined in the following manner: first, the total cost of all chargeable items used in conducting such elections shall be ascertained; second, the total charge shall be divided by the number of precincts participating in such election, in order to fix the cost per precinct; third, the cost per precinct shall be prorated by the board of elections to the subdivisions conducting elections for the nomination or election of offices in such precinct; fourth, the total cost for each subdivision shall be determined by adding the charges prorated to it in each precinct within the subdivision.

~~(D) The (D)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(2) of this section, the entire~~ cost of special elections held on a day other than the day of a primary or general election, both in odd-numbered or in even-numbered years, shall be charged to the subdivision. Where a special election is held on the same day as a primary or general election in an even-numbered year, the subdivision submitting the special election shall be charged only for the cost of ballots and advertising. Where a special election is held on the same day as a primary or general election in an odd-numbered year, the subdivision submitting the special election shall be charged for the cost of ballots and advertising for such special election, in addition to the charges prorated to such subdivision for the election or nomination of candidates in each precinct within the subdivision, as set forth in the preceding paragraph.

(2) The entire cost of a local option election held pursuant to sections 4301.32 to 4301.391 of the Revised Code on a day other than the day of a primary or general election, both in odd-numbered or in even-numbered years, or on a day other than the day of a special election of a political subdivision seeking to submit a question or issue, a nomination for office, or an election to office, shall be charged to the petitioner.

(E) Where a special election is held on the day specified by division (E) of section 3501.01 of the Revised Code for the holding of a primary election, for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the state constitutional amendments proposed by the general assembly, and a subdivision conducts a special election on the same day, the entire cost of the special election shall be divided proportionally between the state and the subdivision based upon a ratio determined by the number of issues placed on the ballot by each, except as otherwise provided in division (G) of this section.

Such proportional division of cost shall be made only to the extent funds are available for such purpose from amounts appropriated by the general assembly to the secretary of state. If a primary election is also being conducted in the subdivision, the costs shall be apportioned as otherwise provided in this section.

(F) When a precinct is open during a general, primary, or special election solely for the purpose of submitting to the voters a statewide ballot issue, the state shall bear the entire cost of the election in that precinct and shall reimburse the county for all expenses incurred in opening the precinct.

(G)(1) The state shall bear the entire cost of advertising in newspapers statewide ballot issues, explanations of those issues, and arguments for or against those issues, as required by Section 1g of Article II and Section 1 of Article XVI, Ohio Constitution, and any other section of law. Appropriations made to the controlling board shall be used to reimburse the secretary of state for all expenses the secretary of state incurs for such advertising under division (G) of section 3505.062 of the Revised Code.

(2) There is hereby created in the state treasury the statewide ballot advertising fund. The fund shall receive transfers approved by the controlling board, and shall be used by the secretary of state to pay the costs of advertising state ballot issues as required under division (G)(1) of this section. Any such transfers may be requested from and approved by the controlling board prior to placing the advertising, in order to facilitate timely provision of the required advertising.

(H) The cost of renting, heating, and lighting registration places; the cost of the necessary books, forms, and supplies for the conduct of registration; and the cost of printing and posting precinct registration lists shall be charged to the subdivision in which such registration is held.

(I)(1)(a) At the request of a majority of the members of the board of elections, the board of county commissioners may, by resolution, establish an elections revenue fund. Except as otherwise provided in this division and in division (I)(2) of this section, the purpose of the fund shall be to accumulate revenue withheld by or paid to the county under this section for the payment of any expense related to the duties of the board of elections specified in section 3501.11 of the Revised Code, upon approval of a majority of the members of the board of elections. The fund shall not accumulate any revenue withheld by or paid to the county under this section for the compensation of the members of the board of elections or of the director, deputy director, or other regular employees in the board's offices, other than compensation for overtime worked.

(b) Notwithstanding sections 5705.14, 5705.15, and 5705.16 of the Revised Code, the board of county commissioners may, by resolution, transfer money to the elections revenue fund from any other fund of the political subdivision from which such payments lawfully may be made. Following an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the board of elections, the board of county commissioners may, by resolution, rescind an elections revenue fund established under this division. If an elections revenue fund is rescinded, money that has accumulated in the fund shall be transferred to the county general fund.

(2)(a) The board of county commissioners of a county that receives a payment from a political subdivision under division (J) of this section shall, by resolution, establish a special elections fund. The purpose of the fund shall be to accumulate revenue paid to the county by political subdivisions under division (J) of this section for the cost of preparing for and conducting special elections.

(b) If both of the following apply, the board of county commissioners may, by resolution, rescind the special elections fund and transfer any remaining money in the fund to the county general fund or to the elections revenue fund:

(i) All notifications and payments required under division (J)(3) of this section have been made.

(ii) The county has not received any payments from political subdivisions under division (J)(2) of this section for a future special election.

(J)(1) Not less than fifteen business days before the deadline for submitting a question or issue for placement on the ballot at a special election, the board of elections shall prepare and file with the board of county commissioners and the office of the secretary of state the estimated cost, based on the factors enumerated in this section, for preparing for and conducting an election on one question or issue, one nomination for office, or one election to office in each precinct in the county at that special election and shall divide that cost by the number of registered voters in the county.

(2) The board of elections shall provide to a political subdivision seeking to submit a question or issue, a nomination for office, or an election to office for placement on the ballot at a special election with the estimated cost for preparing for and conducting that election, which shall be calculated either by multiplying the number of registered voters in the political subdivision with the cost calculated under division (J)(1) of this section or by multiplying the cost per precinct with the number of precincts in the political subdivision. A political subdivision submitting a question or issue, a nomination for office, or an election to office for placement on the ballot at that special election shall pay to the county special elections fund sixty-five per cent of the estimated cost of the election not less than ten business days after the deadline for submitting a question or issue for placement on the ballot for that special election.

(3) Not later than sixty days after the date of a special election, the board of elections shall provide to each political subdivision the true and accurate cost for the question or issue, nomination for office, or election to office that the subdivision submitted to the voters on the special election ballots. If the board of elections determines that a subdivision paid less for the cost of preparing and conducting a special election under division (J)(2) of this section than the actual cost calculated under this division, the subdivision shall remit to the county special elections fund the difference between the payment made under division (J)(2) of this section and the final cost calculated under this division within thirty days after being notified of the final cost. If the board of elections determines that a subdivision paid more for the cost of preparing and conducting a special election under division (J)(2) of this section than the actual cost calculated under this division, the board of

elections promptly shall notify the board of county commissioners of that difference. The board of county commissioners shall remit from the county special elections fund to the political subdivision the difference between the payment made under division (J)(2) of this section and the final cost calculated under this division within thirty days after receiving that notification.

(K) As used in this section:

(1) "Political subdivision" and "subdivision" mean any board of county commissioners, board of township trustees, legislative authority of a municipal corporation, board of education, or any other board, commission, district, or authority that is empowered to levy taxes or permitted to receive the proceeds of a tax levy, regardless of whether the entity receives tax settlement moneys as described in division (A) of this section;

(2) "Statewide ballot issue" means any ballot issue, whether proposed by the general assembly or by initiative or referendum, that is submitted to the voters throughout the state.

Sec. 3501.28. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Fair Labor Standards Act" or "Act" means the "Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938," 52 Stat. 1062, 29 U.S.C.A. 201, as amended.

(2) "Full election day" means the period of time between the opening of the polls and the completion of the procedures contained in section 3501.26 of the Revised Code.

(3) "Services" means services at each general, primary, or special election.

(B) Beginning with calendar year 2004, each precinct election official in a county shall be paid for the official's services at the same hourly rate, which shall be not less than the minimum hourly rate established by the Fair Labor Standards Act and not more than ninety-five dollars per diem.

(C) The secretary of state shall establish, by rule adopted under section 111.15 of the Revised Code, the maximum amount of per diem compensation that may be paid to precinct election officials under this section each time the Fair Labor Standards Act is amended to increase the minimum hourly rate established by the act. Upon learning of such an increase, the secretary of state shall determine by what percentage the minimum hourly rate has been increased under the act and establish a new maximum amount of per diem compensation that precinct election officials may be paid under this section that is increased by the same percentage that the minimum hourly rate has been increased under the act.

(D)(1)(a) No board of elections shall increase the pay of a precinct election official under this section during a calendar year unless the board has given written notice of the proposed increase to the board of county commissioners not later than the first day of October of the preceding calendar year.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(2) of this section, a board of elections may increase the pay of a precinct election official during a calendar year by up to, but not exceeding, nine per cent over the compensation paid to a precinct election official in the county where the board is located during the previous calendar year, if the compensation so paid during the previous

calendar year was eighty-five dollars or less per diem.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(2) of this section, a board of elections may increase the pay of a precinct election official during a calendar year by up to, but not exceeding, four and one-half per cent over the compensation paid to a precinct election official in the county where the board is located during the previous calendar year, if the compensation so paid during the previous calendar year was more than eighty-five but less than ninety-five dollars per diem.

(2) The board of county commissioners may review and comment upon a proposed increase and may enter into a written agreement with a board of elections to permit an increase in the compensation paid to precinct election officials for their services during a calendar year that is greater than the applicable percentage limitation described in division ~~(E)(1)(b)~~(D)(1)(b) or (c) of this section.

(E) No precinct election official who works less than the full election day shall be paid the maximum amount allowed under this section or the maximum amount as set by the board of elections, whichever is less.

(F)(1) Except as otherwise provided in divisions (F)(4) to (6) of this section, any employee of the state or of any political subdivision of the state may serve as a precinct election official on the day of an election without loss of the employee's regular compensation for that day as follows:

(a) For employees of a county office, department, commission, board, or other entity, or of a court of common pleas, county court, or county-operated municipal court, as defined in section 1901.03 of the Revised Code, the employee's appointing authority may permit leave with pay for this service in accordance with a resolution setting forth the terms and conditions for that leave passed by the board of county commissioners.

(b) For all other employees of a political subdivision of the state, leave with pay for this service shall be subject to the terms and conditions set forth in an ordinance or a resolution passed by the legislative authority of the applicable political subdivision.

(c) For state employees, leave with pay for this service shall be subject to the terms and conditions set forth by the head of the state agency, as defined in section 1.60 of the Revised Code, by which the person is employed.

(2) Any terms and conditions set forth by a board of county commissioners, legislative authority of a political subdivision, or head of a state agency under division ~~(G)(1)(F)(1)~~ of this section shall include a standard procedure for deciding which employees are permitted to receive leave with pay if multiple employees of an entity or court described in division ~~(G)(1)(a)~~(F)(1)(a) of this section, of an entity of a political subdivision described in division ~~(G)(1)(b)~~(F)(1)(b) of this section, or of a state agency as defined in section 1.60 of the Revised Code apply to serve as a precinct election official on the day of an election. This procedure shall be applied uniformly to all similarly situated employees.

(3) Any employee who is eligible for leave with pay under division ~~(G)(1)(F)(1)~~ of this section shall receive, in addition to the employee's regular compensation, the compensation paid to

the precinct election official under division (B) or (C) of this section.

(4) Division (F)(1) of this section does not apply to either of the following:

- (a) Election officials;
- (b) Public school teachers.

(5) Nothing in division (F)(1) of this section supersedes or negates any provision of a collective bargaining agreement in effect under Chapter 4117. of the Revised Code.

(6) If a board of county commissioners, legislative authority of a political subdivision, or head of a state agency fails to set forth any terms and conditions under division (F)(1) of this section, an employee of an entity or court described in division (F)(1)(a) of this section, of an entity of a political subdivision described in division (F)(1)(b) of this section, or of a state agency as defined in section 1.60 of the Revised Code may use personal leave, vacation leave, or compensatory time, or take unpaid leave, to serve as a precinct election official on the day of an election.

(G) The board of elections may withhold the compensation of any precinct election official for failure to obey the instructions of the board or to comply with the law relating to the duties of a precinct election official. Any payment a precinct election official is entitled to receive under section 3501.36 of the Revised Code is in addition to the compensation the official is entitled to receive under this section.

Sec. 3505.03. (A) On the office type ballot shall be printed the names of all candidates for election to offices, except the office of judge of a municipal court, county court, or court of common pleas, who were nominated at the most recent primary election as candidates of a political party or who were nominated in accordance with section 3513.02 of the Revised Code, and the names of all candidates for election to offices who were nominated by nominating petitions, except candidates for the office of judge of a municipal court, county court, or court of common pleas, ~~for member of the state board of education, for member of a board of education,~~ for municipal offices, and for township offices.

(B) The face of the ballot below the stub shall be substantially in the following form:

"OFFICIAL OFFICE TYPE BALLOT"

(1) To vote for a candidate record your vote in the manner provided next to the name of such candidate.

(2) If you tear, soil, deface, or erroneously mark this ballot, return it to the precinct election officers or, if you cannot return it, notify the precinct election officers, and obtain another ballot."

(C) The order in which the offices shall be listed on the ballot shall be prescribed by, and certified to each board of elections by, the secretary of state; provided that for state, district, and county offices the order from top to bottom shall be as follows: governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, auditor of state, secretary of state, treasurer of state, chief justice of the supreme court, justice of the supreme court, United States senator, representative to congress, state senator, state representative, judge of a court of appeals, member of a board of education, county commissioner, county auditor, prosecuting attorney, clerk of the court of common pleas, clerk of the

The above ballot is disapproved.

Date: 6/30/25

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county recorder, county treasurer, county engineer, and coroner. The offices of governor and lieutenant governor shall be printed on the ballot in a manner that requires a voter to cast one vote jointly for the candidates who have been nominated by the same political party or petition.

(D) Within the rectangular space within which the title of each judicial office listed in division (C) of this section is printed on the ballot and immediately below the title shall be printed the date of the commencement of the term of the office, if it is a full term, as follows: "Full term commencing _____ (Date) _____," or the date of the end of the term of the office, if it is an unexpired term, as follows: "Unexpired term ending _____ (Date) _____"

(E)(1) The names of all candidates for an office shall be arranged in a group under the title of that office, and, except for absentee ballots or when the number of candidates for a particular office is the same as the number of candidates to be elected for that office, shall be rotated from one precinct to another. On absentee ballots, the names of all candidates for an office shall be arranged in a group under the title of that office and shall be so alternated that each name shall appear, insofar as may be reasonably possible, substantially an equal number of times at the beginning, at the end, and in each intermediate place, if any, of the group in which such name belongs, unless the number of candidates for a particular office is the same as the number of candidates to be elected for that office.

RMD (2) Within the rectangular space within which the title of each office for member of a board of education is printed on the ballot shall be printed "For Member of Board of Education," and the number to be elected, directions to the voter as to voting for one, two, or more, and, if the office to be voted for is member of a board of education of a city school district, words shall be printed in said space on the ballot to indicate whether candidates are to be elected from subdistricts or at large. *RMD*

RMD (3) The method of printing the ballots to meet the rotation requirement of this section shall be as follows: the least common multiple of the number of names in each of the several groups of candidates shall be used, and the number of changes made in the printer's forms in printing the ballots shall correspond with that multiple. The board of elections shall number all precincts in regular serial sequence. In the first precinct, the names of the candidates in each group shall be listed in alphabetical order. In each succeeding precinct, the name in each group that is listed first in the preceding precinct shall be listed last, and the name of each candidate shall be moved up one place. In each precinct using paper ballots, the printed ballots shall then be assembled in tablets.

(F) Under the name of each candidate nominated at a primary election, nominated by petition under section 3517.012 of the Revised Code, or certified by a party committee to fill a vacancy under section 3513.31 of the Revised Code shall be printed, in less prominent type face than that in which the candidate's name is printed, the name of the political party by which the candidate was nominated or certified. Under the name of each candidate appearing on the ballot who filed a nominating petition and requested a ballot designation as a nonparty candidate under section 3513.257 of the Revised Code shall be printed, in less prominent type face than that in which the candidate's name is printed, the designation of "nonparty candidate." Under the name of each

The above boxed and initialed text was disapproved.

Date: *6/30/25*

Mike DeWine

Mike DeWine, Governor