



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST FOR ESB 211

Citations Affected: IC 20-19-3-32.5; IC 20-29-6-1.

Synopsis: Excellence in civic engagement designation and school meetings. Requires the department of education (department), in collaboration with the commission for higher education and subject to the approval of the state board, to establish an excellence in civic engagement designation. Requires the department to develop recommendations for an excellence in civics education designation for schools. Provides that the public hearing required before a school employer and school employee may privately negotiate certain matters may take place at a regular or special meeting of the school's governing body. **(This conference committee report does the following: (1) Removes provisions concerning the Open Door Law and access to public records. (2) Removes provisions concerning the removal of disruptive students. (3) Replaces provisions concerning a civics proficiency designation with language establishing an excellence in civics engagement designation for students and schools. (4) Removes provisions concerning Internet safety instruction and the requirement that the department of education approve previously developed curricula concerning Internet safety.)**

Effective: July 1, 2024.



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MADAM PRESIDENT:

Your Conference Committee appointed to confer with a like committee from the House upon Engrossed House Amendments to Engrossed Senate Bill No. 211 respectfully reports that said two committees have conferred and agreed as follows to wit:

that the Senate recede from its dissent from all House amendments and that the Senate now concur in all House amendments to the bill and that the bill be further amended as follows:

- 1 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:
- 2 SECTION 1. IC 20-19-3-32.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
- 3 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 4 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024]: **Sec. 32.5. (a) The department, in**
- 5 **collaboration with the commission for higher education, and**
- 6 **subject to the approval of the state board, shall establish an**
- 7 **excellence in civic engagement designation that may be earned by**
- 8 **a high school student and recognized on the transcript of a student**
- 9 **in a cohort that is expected to graduate in 2029 or after.**
- 10 **(b) In establishing criteria for the excellence in civic engagement**
- 11 **designation, the department may consider the following:**
- 12 **(1) A student's documented volunteer hours.**
- 13 **(2) A student's documented participation in project based**
- 14 **learning opportunities that demonstrate engagement in the**
- 15 **student's local community or a statewide initiative.**
- 16 **(3) A student's successful completion of course work that**
- 17 **emphasizes the student's understanding of civil society,**
- 18 **constitutional government, and the democratic process.**
- 19 **(4) Any other criteria the department determines**
- 20 **demonstrates excellent civic participation.**
- 21 **(c) Not later than December 1, 2024, the department shall**

1 develop recommendations for an excellence in civics education
2 designation for schools that do the following:

3 (1) **Demonstrate rigorous commitment to developing student**
4 **understanding of civil society, constitutional government, and**
5 **the democratic process.**

6 (2) **Have a significant number of students who earn the**
7 **excellence in civic engagement designation on students'**
8 **transcripts.**

9 SECTION 2. IC 20-29-6-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.200-2023,
10 SECTION 25, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
11 JULY 1, 2024]: Sec. 1. (a) School employers and school employees
12 shall:

13 (1) have the obligation and the right to bargain collectively the
14 items set forth in section 4 of this chapter; and

15 (2) enter into a contract embodying any of the matters listed in
16 section 4 of this chapter on which they have bargained
17 collectively.

18 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, before a school employer and
19 school employees may privately negotiate the matters described in
20 subsection (a)(1) during the time period for formal collective
21 bargaining established in section 12 of this chapter, the parties must
22 hold at least one (1) public hearing and take public testimony to discuss
23 the items described in subsection (a). **The public hearing under this**
24 **subsection may take place at a regular or special meeting of the**
25 **governing body.** A school employer may allow governing body
26 members or the public to participate in a public hearing under this
27 subsection by means of electronic communication.

(Reference is to ESB 211 as reprinted February 27, 2024.)

Conference Committee Report
on
Engrossed Senate Bill 211

Signed by:

Senator Raatz
Chairperson

Representative Behning

Senator Yoder

Representative DeLaney

Senate Conferees

House Conferees