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H.B. 214
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Holmes

Holly Gilman, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Requires each school district, community school, and STEM school to adopt a policy setting forth expectations and standards for all professional staff members related to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, ideology, or social action.
- Requires each school district and school to post all policies guidance, and training materials on all matters regarding the topics listed above.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Policy on standards and performance of professional duties

Within 90 days of its effective date, the bill requires each school district board of education, community school governing authority, and STEM school governing body to adopt a policy declaring that the district or school expects all professional staff members to maintain high standards with respect to co-worker relationships and in the performance of the staff member's professional duties. The policy must state that the district or school must not:

1. Solicit or require an employee, student, or applicant for employment or academic admission to affirmatively ascribe to, or opinion about, specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, ideology, or social action; and
2. Use statements of commitment to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principals concerning political movements, ideology, or social action as part of the evaluation criteria for students, applicants for employment or academic admission, or employees or students that are seeking career or academic progression or benefits.¹

¹ R.C. 3319.614(A), 3314.03, and 3326.11.

However, the bill specifically does not prohibit, limit, or restrict any of the following:

1. A district's or school's authority to require a student or employee to comply with federal or state law (including anti-discrimination laws), or to take action against a student or employee for violation of federal or state law;
2. An educator's academic freedom;
3. An educator's ability to teach, research, or write publications about specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, ideology, or social action;
4. A district's or school's authority to consider an applicant for employment's scholarship, teaching, or subject matter expertise in the applicant's given academic field.²

Publicly accessible information on related matters

The bill also requires each school district and school to make publicly available all policies, guidance, and training materials used for students, educators, and staff on all matters regarding specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, ideology, or social action.³

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	06-13-23

ANHB0214IN-135/ts

² R.C. 3319.614(B).

³ R.C. 3319.614(C).