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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 214\*  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

[Click here for H.B. 214's Fiscal Note](#)

**Version:** As Reported by House Primary and Secondary Education

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Holmes

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### SUMMARY

- Requires each school district, community school, and STEM school to adopt a policy against using statements of commitment to, or soliciting or requiring specified individuals to affirmatively ascribe to, specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, or ideology.
- 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 that states the district or school must not:

1. Solicit or require an employee or applicant for employment to affirmatively ascribe to, or opine about, specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, or ideology;
2. Solicit or require a student to affirmatively ascribe to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements or ideology;
3. Use statements of commitment to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principals concerning political movements, or ideology as part of the evaluation criteria for

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\* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

employees, applicants for employment, or employees seeking career progression or benefits;

4. Use statements of commitment to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements or ideology as part of the academic evaluation of students.<sup>1</sup>

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 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.<sup>2</sup>

## Publicly accessible information on related matters

The bill also requires each district and school to make publicly available all policies, district guidance, and training materials used for students, educators, and staff on all matters regarding specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, or ideology. However, the bill specifies it cannot be construed to require districts and schools to make protected legal communications or guidance publicly available.<sup>3</sup>

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## HISTORY

| Action                                     | Date     |
|--|----------|
| Introduced                                 | 06-13-23 |
| Reported, H. Primary & Secondary Education | ---      |

ANHB0214RH-135/ts

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3319.614(A), 3314.03, and 3326.11.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3319.614(B).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3319.614(C).