

OFC report for FS April 12

I attended the April 8 OFC meeting. There was discussion of HB327 which is stalled and has essentially been replaced by **HB616**. Matt Ides from Ohio EA reported that the flood of letters from individuals opposing HB 327 contributed to the stalling of the bill.

---**HB616** has passed the house and is now in senate. The language here prohibits the teaching of "divisive concepts" and "gender identity" in public schools

"Sec. 3313.6029. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Divisive or inherently racist concepts" include all of the following: (a) Critical race theory; (b) Intersectional theory; (c) The 1619 project; (d) Diversity, equity, and inclusion learning outcomes; (e) Inherited racial guilt; (f) Any other concept that the state board of education defines as divisive or inherently racist, in accordance with rules adopted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(2) "State scholarship program" has the same meaning as in section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code.

(B)(1) No school district, community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, STEM school established under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code, or nonpublic school that enrolls students who are participating in a state scholarship program shall do any of the following: (a) Teach, use, or provide for use by any student any curriculum, instructional material, or assignment designed to promote or endorse divisive or inherently racist concepts; (b) Offer training or professional development to employees that promote or endorse divisive or inherently racist concepts. (2) No school district, community school, STEM school, nonpublic school that enrolls students who are participating in a state scholarship program, or any employee or other third party representing a school district or school shall do either of the following: (a) With respect to a student in any of grades kindergarten through three, teach, use, or provide any curriculum or instructional materials on sexual orientation or gender identity; (b) With respect to a student in any of grades four through twelve, teach, use, or provide any curriculum or instructional materials on sexual orientation or gender identity in any manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards.

(C) No teacher shall receive continuing education credit or other credit required for licensure renewal for any seminar or other program that teaches, promotes, or endorses divisive or inherently racist concepts.

(D)(1) The state board shall establish a procedure in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code by which an individual may file a complaint against a teacher, school administrator, or school district superintendent alleging a violation of division (B) or (C) of this section."

School districts risk losing funds for these infractions.

---Both the House and Senate have passed **135**

SB 135 includes language that allows the chancellor to adjust the ssi formula according to whether degrees attained relate to jobs in demand in ohio. Sec. 3333.0418

Also in SB 135

“Sec. 3333.073. The chancellor of higher education may suspend or limit enrollment in any degree program offered by a state institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, if the chancellor determines that the degree program has a low completion rate at that institution. The chancellor may adopt rules to implement this section.”

“Sec. 3345.027. A state institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, shall not withhold a student's official transcripts from a potential employer because the student owes money to the institution, provided the student has authorized the transcripts to be sent to the employer and the employer affirms to the institution that the transcripts are a prerequisite of employment.”

In an earlier version of this bill, a university would have had to cover the tuition of a student who dis-enrolled from the first university and enrolled in a different university within a 5-year period. The version of **Senate Bill 135** now authorizes \$2000 to students who leave school for 3 semesters and reenroll.

SB 135 also calls for IHEs to initiate a process for individuals to report free speech violations. The Columbus Dispatch reports the bill’s sponsor motivating example: **“If a student in a classroom feels their professor is overly liberal and expresses concern about how speaking up is impacting his grades, I wanted to have a process for him,” Cirino said. “Most students are not going to go out and hire a First Amendment lawyer.”** <https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/2022/04/06/grants-free-speech-new-degrees-big-education-bill-set-vote-ohio-wednesday/9473682002/>