

As Introduced

135th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2023-2024

S. B. No. 108

Senator Blessing

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A BILL

To enact section 5103.021 of the Revised Code to  
establish and regulate scholars residential  
centers.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

**Section 1.** That section 5103.021 of the Revised Code be  
enacted to read as follows:

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**Sec. 5103.021.** (A) As used in this section, a "scholars  
residential center" is a center that meets all of the following:

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(1) The center is a certified affiliate in good standing  
of a national organization with a mission to help underserved  
children in middle school and high school in a comprehensive  
manner that is academically focused and service-oriented and in  
a family-like setting.

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(2) The center is private and not-for-profit.

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(3) The center does not receive Title IV-E funding or any  
associated Title IV funds related to child welfare.

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(4) The center only accepts children placed by their  
parents or legal custodian.

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(5) The center is voluntary and uses a competitive 18  
selection process. 19

(B) The director of job and family services shall adopt 20  
rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to 21  
implement standards regarding a scholars residential center. The 22  
rules shall be substantially similar, as determined by the 23  
director, to other similarly situated providers of residential 24  
care for children, including rules provided in Chapters 5101:2-5 25  
and 5101:2-9 of the Administrative Code, except that the rules 26  
shall reflect all of the following: 27

(1) A center is not subject to any policy that is not 28  
specific or relevant to the center. 29

(2) A center is not required to provide discharge 30  
summaries. 31

(3) A center is permitted to request agency waivers. 32

(4) A center is not required to implement case plans or 33  
service plans. 34

(5) Training requirements for center staff are limited to 35  
completion of all of the following: 36

(a) Orientation training; 37

(b) Current American red cross, American heart 38  
association, or equivalent first aid and cardiopulmonary 39  
resuscitation certification; 40

(c) One hour of annual trauma training. 41

(6) A center is not subject to existing rules regarding: 42

(a) Recreation and leisure activity requirements, provided 43  
that the center has a recreation area available and permits 44

children to swim if a person who has completed life-saving or 45  
water safety training is present; 46

(b) Visiting and communications policies, provided that 47  
the center ensures that children have contact with their family; 48

(c) Qualified residential treatment program requirements; 49

(d) Treatment-focused requirements established for 50  
residential agencies. 51

(7) A center shall provide notification and documentation 52  
of critical incidents to parents and legal custodians. 53

(C) The director shall certify a scholars residential 54  
center that submits an application to the director, on a form 55  
prescribed by the director, that indicates to the director's 56  
satisfaction that the center meets the standards set forth in 57  
rules adopted under division (B) of this section. 58

(D) Notwithstanding any provision of section 121.95 of the 59  
Revised Code to the contrary, a regulatory restriction contained 60  
in a rule adopted under division (B) of this section is not 61  
subject to sections 121.95 to 121.953 of the Revised Code. 62