



ENACTMENT NEWS

Senate Bill 126 **“Collin’s Law” - Hazing** Effective October 7, 2021

On July 6, 2021, Governor DeWine signed Senate Bill 126 (Sens. Kunze and Gavarone) into law. The bill makes changes to Ohio’s hazing laws, and takes effect on October 7, 2021.

Hazing - Expanded definitions

Existing law (R.C. 2903.31) defines hazing as “doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.” S.B. 126 expands that definition to also include acts done to continue or reinstate membership in or affiliation with any student or other organization, and specifies that this includes coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse.

Existing law prohibits a person from recklessly participating in hazing, and also provides that no administrator, employee, or faculty member of any primary, secondary, or post-secondary school or of any other educational institution, public or private, shall recklessly permit the hazing of any person. S.B. 126 expands this to also include teachers, consultants, alumni, and volunteers. A violation of this offense is raised in the bill from an M4 to an M2.

The bill also adds to the offense of hazing as follows:

1. No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another when the hazing includes coerced consumption of alcohol or drugs of abuse resulting in serious physical harm to the other person; and
2. No administrator, employee, faculty member, teacher, consultant, alumnus, or volunteer of any organization, including any primary, secondary, or post-secondary school or any other educational institution, public or private, shall recklessly permit the hazing of any person associated with the organization when the hazing includes coerced consumption of alcohol or drugs of abuse resulting in serious physical harm to that person.

A violation of these new provisions is an F3.

Failing to report

S.B. 126 provides that no administrator, employee, faculty member, teacher, consultant, alumnus, or volunteer of any organization, including primary, secondary, or post-secondary schools or any private or public educational institution, when acting in an official and professional capacity, shall recklessly fail to report any knowledge of hazing

to a law enforcement agency in the county in which the victim resides or in which the hazing occurs. A violation of this new provision is an M4. If the hazing results in serious physical harm, the violation becomes an M1.

Requirements on higher education

The bill also imposes new requirements on institutions of higher education, including the development and implementation of new anti-hazing policies, requirements pertaining to the reporting of incidents of hazing, and educational programming for students on hazing awareness, prevention, and intervention.

The Ohio Senate passed the bill by a vote of 33-0 on June 16, 2021, and the House passed the bill by a vote of 89-0 on June 25, 2021. The Senate voted to concur in House amendments by a vote of 33-0 on June 28, 2021.