
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5285

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

SUMMARY

This bill requires, rather than allows, climate change to be taught as part of the science requirement in public schools' program of instruction. As under existing law, the curriculum must follow the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022, except a conforming change takes effect July 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND

Next Generation Science Standards

The NGSS are research-based science content standards for grades kindergarten to 12 adopted by SBE in 2015. The standards' foundational document provides that climate changes are significant and persistent changes in the average or extreme weather conditions of an area (National Research Council. 2012. A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference - APP
Yea 31 Nay 8 (03/11/2022)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 35 Nay 13 (04/07/2022)