
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5129 (as amended by House "A" and "B")*

AN ACT CONCERNING SUBSTANCE-FREE HOUSING ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

SUMMARY

This bill requires, for the academic year beginning July 1, 2025, and each following academic year, each public higher education institution in the state that (1) offers four-year degree programs and (2) at which at least 25% of students reside in on-campus student housing, to provide students with an option for substance-free housing. The bill specifies that it does not require an institution to designate an entire residential facility as substance-free housing.

The bill defines “substance-free housing” as an area of a residential facility where each student agrees to keep their room drug- and alcohol-free. This includes a floor or wing of a residential facility.

*House Amendment “A” delays until the 2025-2026 academic year the start date by which certain higher education institutions must provide students with a substance-free housing option, limits the requirement to four-year higher education institutions at which at least 25% of students reside in on-campus housing, and specifies that (1) institutions are not required to designate an entire residential facility as substance-free housing, and (2) substance-free housing includes a floor or wing of a residential facility.

*House Amendment “B” limits the substance-free housing requirement to public higher education institutions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (02/29/2024)