



Representative Bill Reineke

Sponsor Testimony HB 512

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**Education is one of the states' most important tasks, this legislation aligns our education systems to better prepare our workforce for today and the future.**

House Bill 512 provides much needed structural reforms to Ohio's education system by reorganizing our education system; which include the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Higher Education, and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. HB 512 establishes the creation of a new cabinet level agency called the **Ohio Department of Learning and Achievement (DLA)**. The Ohio Department of Learning and Achievement will be comprised of the Ohio Department of Higher Education, Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, and the PreK-12 policy functions of the Ohio Department of Education. This consolidation....

As we move into the new Knowledge Economy, Ohio needs to play a key role. Our education system must adapt – and quickly – to new realities. The arc from “crib to career” or “birth to work” demands a unified approach and consistent vision by our education system. Higher education in all its forms (four-year, two-year, advanced vocational training and adult education) can no longer be managed separately from primary and secondary schools.

HB 512 does not make any changes to the membership of the State Board of Education. Instead, it re-defines the board's duties, consistent with the Ohio Constitution.

Ohio's constitution states that:

- “There shall be a State Board of Education which shall be selected in such a manner and for such terms as shall be provided by law. There shall be a Superintendent of Public Instruction, who shall be appointed by the State Board of Education. **The respective powers and duties of the board and of the Superintendent shall be prescribed by law.**” (Article VI, Sec. 4)

HB 512 is designed to improve oversight and service-delivery in Ohio's preK through college and workforce development system with minimal disruption of day-to-day operations and personnel when existing programs from the departments of Education and Higher Education are merged. No layoffs are anticipated and overhead costs of consolidation are minimal.

**Poor accountability, politics, and mission fog are three flaws that lead to an outcome where policies set by the General Assembly and Governor are second guessed and operational performance is poor, which leads to substandard educational outcomes for our students.**

This legislation solves these critical flaws by aligning all education and workforce development policy in a single cabinet agency. It refocuses the State Board of Education mission to regulate teacher licensure and educator misconduct, together with other quasi-judicial duties consistent with other state boards and commissions

Ohioans must acknowledge that we're living in a brave new world of massive, rapid and often disruptive technological change and advancement, and that the jobs of tomorrow will be increasingly technology heavy. Many of today's jobs were not even imagined 20 years ago.

To win the global competition for business investment and jobs, Ohio must develop and attract individuals with knowledge, skills, competencies and credentials that meet the needs of employers, especially those seeking to fill in-demand jobs. Of particular concern is the fact that Ohio currently has a substantial shortage of working-age adults with the degrees and credentials required to be successful in the labor market – in other words, a gap between employer expectations and worker capabilities.

We face a large and serious challenge. According to the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, 64 percent of Ohio jobs in 2020 will require postsecondary degrees or credentials. A new Lumina Foundation report shows, however, that just 43.2 percent of working-age adults in Ohio have a postsecondary certificate or degree. To produce the number of highly skilled workers with postsecondary credentials required to meet the needs of employers, Ohio will need to produce, by 2025, an estimated 1.7 million more adults with high-quality postsecondary certificates or degrees.

To address this, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, and the Office of Workforce Transformation convened stakeholders from K-12, higher education, workforce development, philanthropy and community partnerships to establish Ohio's

2025 Attainment Goal which states “65 percent of Ohioans, ages 25-64, will have a degree, certificate or other postsecondary workforce credential of value in the workplace by 2025.”

We need to make sure every Ohioan has the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the workplace. This is a critical, must-have outcome for our businesses as well as for members of the state’s workforce. This creates an imperative to work together as a state to make sure businesses clearly communicate their workforce needs. Businesses must help shape training by forming partnerships with education institutions and government at all levels; playing a meaningful role in the development of curriculum, credentialing programs and work-based learning experiences; and working with education and training providers to match students with appropriate work-based learning experiences to help those entering or transitioning within the workforce get a better feel for career opportunities available to them.

Conversely, education providers, workforce development organizations, labor organizations and others must find ways to meet those employer needs. These diverse stakeholders must collaborate to develop education and training programs that will ensure a workforce capable of quickly adapting to new and evolving business needs.

HB 512 creates an integrated, coherent system where our education, training, and retraining programs operate in tandem with each other and where the right hand knows what the left hand is doing to maximize operational efficiencies and put Ohio on course to benefit from the emerging 21<sup>st</sup> century Knowledge Economy.

### **Talk about crisis, demands of workforce and purpose for our people**

As with all other cabinet agencies, the Director of DLA will be appointed by the Governor, with consent of the Senate. The Director of DLA will appoint a Deputy Director of Higher Education, a Deputy Director of Workforce Transformation and other Deputy Directors, as deemed appropriate, for purposes of streamlining PreK through workforce policy development and implementation. The bill also eliminates the Board of Regents, transfers rule-making authority for school safety plans to the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and designates DLA as the new State Educational Agency (SEA) for federal purposes.

Moving forward, all PreK-12 policy and regulatory functions will be transferred to DLA. The State Board of Education is made up of a 19-member Board with 11 elected and 8 appointed

State Board members and will continue to appoint a State Superintendent and maintain its quasi-judicial functions.

The State Board of Education will remain in place, with powers and duties determined by the General Assembly, as prescribed by Ohio's Constitution. The board will continue important regulatory responsibilities, including oversight of educational licensure in Ohio and its role in resolving investigations involving educator misconduct.

By right-sizing the way Ohio administers its education and workforce preparedness, HB 512 will:

- Make Ohio's public education system, including workforce preparedness, more responsible for achieving results
- Prepare all students for success in the knowledge economy
- Allow for the development of a coherent, focused education policy that works for all Ohio students
- Ensure accountability and responsiveness from those who decide what and how our students are taught
- Bring order to our current education chaos by creating clear lines of authority and a common mission
- Align Ohio's primary and secondary education structure with the successful model used by our Higher Education system
- No longer give special interests a second bite of the apple to disrupt education policy implementation.
- Strengthen our focus on professional standards and educator conduct in Ohio classrooms

Long overdue reform of Ohio's education system, as spelled out in HB 512, will better help our schools deliver results and prepare Ohioans for the future. Ohioans place ultimate policy-making responsibility on the Governor and General Assembly for Ohio's success, yet under our current system, accountability for the most important public responsibility – Education – does not occur. This much-needed reform will provide clear lines of authority and responsibility for public education in Ohio, while bringing a consistency of vision for our schools, colleges, and universities. All are essential steps for preparing Ohioans to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century's Knowledge Economy.

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