



Ohio General Assembly
House of Representatives
Columbus

State Representative Mike Dovilla
District 7
House Bill 153 – Sponsor Testimony
Before the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Chairman Brown, Vice Chairman Blessing, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on H.B. 153.

This straightforward legislation will change the date on which presidential primary elections are held in the State of Ohio. Currently, Ohio conducts its presidential primary election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. H.B. 153 would move this election to the second Tuesday after the first Monday in March.

This simple change will allow Ohio to send the strongest possible delegation to the Republican National Committee's (RNC) quadrennial nominating convention in Cleveland in July 2016. Under rules adopted last year by the RNC, states that hold their primaries between March 1 and March 14, 2016, are subject to proportional allocation of their delegates, while those holding their primaries on March 15, 2016, or later will award their delegates on a winner-take-all basis. By delaying the Ohio presidential primary by one week, H.B. 153 will increase the amount of attention presidential candidates pay to the Buckeye State in the nominating process and avoid effectively having 16 proportional contests for delegates within our congressional districts.

This bill offers the added benefit of providing one extra week of time for officials in our 88 county boards of elections to prepare for the presidential primary election after concluding this year's general election in November.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to appear before the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee. I would be happy to answer any questions you or members of the committee may have at this time.

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