

Columbus Office  
77 S. High St.  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor – H. District 67  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 644-6711  
Rep67@ohiohouse.gov



Committees  
Education and Career Readiness-  
Chair  
Rules and Reference  
Insurance  
Community and Family Advancement  
Financial Institutions, Housing and  
Urban Development  
Joint Education Oversight

## **REP. ANDREW O. BRENNER**

November 13, 2018

Chairman Ryan, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Joint Resolution 3.

House Joint Resolution 3 and my House Bill 102, which this committee is also hearing, were introduced simultaneously as one cannot work without the other. As you may recall from my sponsor testimony on House Bill 102, that bill overhauls the system of funding for K-12 education. In order to complete this overhaul, an amendment must be added to the Ohio Constitution. House Joint Resolution provides the language for that amendment.

If passed by the General Assembly, HJR 3 would go before the voters as a ballot initiative that would replace all existing school district debt with a state-issued debt and create a state fund specifically for funding primary and secondary education. However, the voters would also have to approve of a statewide property tax levy for the purpose of funding primary and secondary education. House Bill 102, is, to my knowledge, the only bill currently before the Legislature that would establish the parameters for the statewide property tax.

With regard to the state assuming all school debts, HJR 3 authorizes the state to issue general obligation bonds with a 20 year maturity date in an amount that adequately redeems all debt issued by school districts on or before November 5, 2019. HJR 3 exempts these bonds from an existing amendment that prohibits the state from issuing general obligation debt that would cause the state's total general obligation debt service to exceed 5% of the GRF revenues and lottery profits for any fiscal year. Additionally, HJR 3 waives the constitutional "sinking fund" requirement for school districts.

Finally, HJR 3, if approved, would no longer require school districts to go to their voters and residents with another property tax levy and, if approved in tandem with HB 102, would discontinue all existing property taxes levied by schools after 2020. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, again, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Joint Resolution 3, and I would be happy to take any questions at this time.