

77 S. High Street, 10th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 466-1645
rep32@ohiohouse.gov

Higher Education— *Ranking Member*
Primary & Secondary Education
Economic & Workforce Development
Broadcast Educational Media Commission

State Representative Catherine D. Ingram

Rep. Catherine D. Ingram Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 43
House Primary & Secondary Education Committee
February 19, 2019

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Jones, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary & Secondary committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 43.

House Bill 43 eliminates the right of first refusal that state law currently provides to community schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, and STEM schools before public school districts put property up for sale at auction or private sale.

Under Ohio law, when a board of education decides to sell property belonging to the school district, it first must offer the property to one of the aforementioned entities for 60 days before putting the property up for auction.

This unnecessary delay and hindrance to Ohio's school districts is an example of bureaucratic red-tape that can and should be eliminated in order to allow boards of education the ability to best serve the interests of the communities and students they serve.

This legislation does not prevent community schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, and STEM schools from attempting to purchase school district property. It instead allows them to participate in the public auction process similar to any other interested entity, and frees up school districts from the hassle and nuisance of delaying property sales for 60 days.

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Jones, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary & Secondary committee, I thank you for your time, and I will be happy to answer any questions.

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