

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center for Government
77 S. High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Phone: (614) 466-8100

Fax: (614) 719-0005

Email: Rep77@ohiohouse.gov

Website: www.ohiohouse.gov



Committees

Ways and Means, Chairman
Agriculture and Rural Development
Public Utilities

Special Appointments

Tax Expenditure Review Committee, Chair
Ohio 2020 Tax Policy Study Commission,
Co-Chair
Study Committee on Receivership Laws

Tim Schaffer
State Representative, 77th House District

House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
House Bill 121—Sponsor Testimony
Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Jones, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 121.

House Bill 121 will permit primary and secondary teachers licensed under Ohio law to claim a personal income tax credit of up to \$100 for purchases of instructional materials. In this bill instructional materials are defined as any material used by a teacher for general classroom instruction. This bill is a small way of “repaying” the teachers for their commitment to their students and their schools.

I introduced this bill because I have often heard from teachers in my district of the amount of money they spend out of their own pockets to purchase instructional materials. An example is one school in my district which only allows teachers two ink cartridges a year for their computer printers in their classrooms. Many times this does not fulfill the needs of a classroom and the teacher must purchase ink cartridges on her/his own.

According to the U.S Department of Education’s teacher questionnaire during the 2014-2015 school year, roughly 94 percent of teachers nationwide reported spending an average of \$479 on school supplies. In another study done by Scholastic in 2016, 56% of teachers that took the national survey said they used their own money to buy supplies for their students and classroom needs. On average over the course of a year the teachers in the survey spent \$530 of their own money. Those in high poverty schools were spending nearly 40% more than other teachers.

House Bill 121 will not be a permanent fix, but it will go a long way for those teachers spending out of their own pockets to buy instructional materials. This credit would be in addition to the federal income tax deduction of up to \$250.00 for teachers purchasing classroom materials in the federal law.

Thank you once again, Chairman Blessing, and the members of the committee, for the opportunity to present this issue to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.