



Testimony on Senate Bill 120 – Higher Education Performance Audits
Higher Education Performance Audits
Senate Higher Education Committee
May 1, 2019

Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 120 (SB 120) on behalf of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges. OACC is pleased to support SB 120 – sponsored by Senators McColley and Rulli – to provide more opportunities for institution of higher education to work in partnership with the Auditor of State to conduct more than the one performance audit per biennium that is permitted under current law.

The overall cost of higher education in this State continues to be a concern for far too many students and their families. In recent years, the attitude towards reducing costs too often has been to treat all institutions the same, regardless of their size, cost structure, or history of managing efficiently. While there have been a number of recent efforts to help more students earn their degree, everyone recognizes that more needs to be done.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to making institutions more accessible and affordable for Ohioans, because no two institutions in this state are exactly alike. We believe that SB 120 would provide one more tool that institutions can utilize to help identify efficiency and cost saving opportunities, and it is a tool that by definition starts with a more localized examination of the practices currently in place at that institution. OACC was a strong proponent of the original legislation (HB 384 from the 131st General Assembly) that established higher education performance audits and we support giving Ohio's public colleges and universities the ability to seek the expertise of Auditor's office to identify ways to streamline and improve operational expenses.

In order to keep tuition the lowest in the state for our students, leaders at our public two-year institutions consistently work diligently to identify new and innovative solutions that will enhance efficiencies, reduce waste and identify new opportunities for improved services. We agree with Auditor Faber's testimony that a more efficient higher educational institution benefits the institution, its students and Ohio taxpayers. Performance audits are a welcome tool in our ongoing efforts to continue to deliver high-quality educational workforce training that remains affordable and accessible for Ohio students.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of SB 120 on behalf of Ohio's community colleges.