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Ohio House of Representatives

Committees
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Rules and Reference

# Rep. Andrew O. Brenner

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Chairman Hayes, Ranking Member Fedor and fellow members of the House Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity today to present sponsor testimony for House Bill 74. I am here today to ask your support of H.B. 74 which deals with revisions of to state assessments and examinations. My testimony is designed to provide an overview of the bill's major provision as they relate to the administration of assessments.

Major provisions included in H.B. 74 include:

- Reducing the administration time for state assessments
  - Test administration time increased approximately 120% for the current school year over the 2013-2014 school year due to the new assessments
- Allowing greater local control over decision making regarding assessments used to inform instruction
- A delay of online testing and requirement that the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) evaluate districts' technology needs for test administration
- Prohibiting any unenforceable limitations on local testing
- Requiring ODE to identify assessments that can be used for multiple purposes allowing local schools to reduce testing time
- More local control over teach evaluations
- Teacher and administrative input in the selection of state assessments
- Selection of new state assessments for the 2015-16 school year based on ease of administration and overall quality, as well as performance benchmarks and cost.
- Requires ODE to study the impact of online administration of state assessments and report to the General Assembly and the governor no later than June 30 ,2016

House Bill 74 will also include provisions specifically tailored for several grade levels of assessments. For the kindergarten through eighth grade assessments, provisions include:

- Elimination of the writing requirements in grades 1-3
- Limiting the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment to one hour.
- Permitting districts to administer the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment prior to the school year, but on no date prior to August 1st.

- Repeals the requirement that the mathematics diagnostic assessment be administered in first and third grades, and retains only the second grade mathematics diagnostic examination.
- Requires ODE to identify at least two mathematics assessments that can be used for multiple purposes. It will also require ODE to identify at least two reading diagnostic examinations for the third grade that will allow students to meet performance benchmarks to enter fourth grade.
- Reinstates the September 30th deadline to complete the reading diagnostic tests of grades 1-3 as well as the November 1st deadline for kindergarteners.
- A reduction of approximately 38% in time necessary to administer state assessments for third grade through eighth grades and limit test administration to no more than three hours per assessment per year.

Re-evaluation of state assessments required for graduation is also included in H.B. 74. Provisions that were specifically drafted for high school level examinations include:

- Reduction in the number of examinations from the current requirement of seven, as established in House Bill 487 from the prior general assembly, to five end-of-course examinations.
- Limit test administration time for end of course examinations to three hours per exam.
- Adding requirements that ODE identify and benchmark equivalent scores on assessments that are equivalent to current examinations
- Sets proficient scores of Advanced Placement end of course exams as 2 and International Baccalaureate end of course exams as 3.
- Excusing students obtaining industry recognized credentials or state vocational licenses from additional career technical assessments

House Bill 74 is not exclusive to student examination. This legislation will also address teacher evaluation and academic content standards. House Bill 74 includes language that:

- Allows school districts to determine student progress measures for non-core academic subjects in grades 4-12
- Permits districts to determine student progress measures for kindergarten, as well as allowing districts to determine student progress measures for grades 1-3 except in reading and mathematics
- Clarifies that if a memorandum of understanding is entered into with regard to the use of the value-added progress results from the 2014-15 school year districts may a student progress measure other than value-added as part of teacher evaluation
- Requires the State Board of Education to revise the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System in order to reduce the estimated time necessary to complete evaluations
- Sets a deadline of June 30, 2016 for review and revision of academic content standards
    - Academic Review committees have already begun meeting to scrutinize the current standards

Limitation on the amount of administration time per test, eliminating several state and state-required assessments, identification of locally-chosen assessments that allow one test to be used in multiple ways

and returning more control to local districts with regard to teacher evaluations provides a reduction of approximately 50% in testing time while ensuring continued local control over assessments used by schools and districts to personalize instruction. H.B. 74 also provides a path forward to select new assessments and provide greater flexibility with regard to assessments administered at the high school level. This bill eliminates the current one-size-fits-all approach to pave the way for a more efficient operation of state assessments in our local schools.

I would like to thank like to thank Representative Ann Gonzales for her valuable input on this legislation. Her introduction of H.B. 629 served as the starting point for H.B. 74.

I would also like to thank Chairman Hayes and my fellow members of the House Education Committee for taking the time to hear H.B. 74. I will be more than happy to answer any questions that you may have.