

House Bill 18 – Sponsor Testimony
House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
Representative Dorothy Pelanda
March 15, 2017

Chairman Blessing, Vice-Chairman Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee - thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 18 today.

HB 18 will eliminate the requirement of holding a special election to fill a vacancy in a party nomination for the office of representative of Congress under specific circumstances. This will apply only when there is one person that has filed a valid declaration of candidacy or no person has filed a valid declaration of candidacy.

Ohio's current special elections laws require that a special election be held in the instance of a congressional candidate withdrawing from a race 90 days prior to a general election. Current law already specifies procedures in which a candidate can be appointed without the holding of a special election.

As Secretary of State Husted correctly surmised in a Gongwer article from August 1, 2016: "It is a waste of time and tax dollars to hold a special election when only one candidate is running. I hope the legislature will change the law to avoid this problem in the future." This specific situation recently transpired with an unneeded special election for the 8th Congressional District in Ohio and this common sense legislation will prevent such situations from happening in the future.

I appreciate your attention to my testimony today and would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.