



**House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
HB 705 Proponent Testimony
Ohio School Boards Association
Buckeye Association of School Administrators**

November 28, 2018

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Minority Member Clyde and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill (HB) 705 on behalf of public school district boards of education and superintendents from around Ohio.

The proposal would modify Ohio's strict liability law in certain cases where a school district treasurer has approved a payment based on non-financial information which is supplied by other school district staff and that are later found to be inappropriate. In these cases, a treasurer will not be held liable unless the funds were lost as a result of the treasurer's own negligence or other wrongful act. This protection would also apply to the district or an Educational Service Center (ESC) superintendent.

In addition, the bill seeks to modernize the process of verifying employee credentials by making payments to an employee contingent upon a written statement from the district or ESC superintendent that the teacher has filed with the superintendent or designee the required reports and the valid educator license.

In conclusion, HB 705 provides districts with the opportunity to make corrections rather than hold individual school officials personally accountable for actions beyond their control. Our organizations support the efforts of the Ohio Association of School Business Officials as proponents and urge your support for the bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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