

Representative Bill Reineke

Sponsor Testimony HB 166

September 13, 2017

Chairman Duffey, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Sweeney,

And members of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee.

Thank you for hearing the substitute bill of HB 166

**The following are pieces of HB 166 that were included in the State Operating Budget:**

* Streamlining Ohio law to comply with the Federal Workforce and Innovation Act (WIOA)
* The development of a competency based Ohio means Jobs Ready certificate
* Creation of a STEAM Designation, Science, technology, engineering, arts, and Math
  + This creates a designation for certain STEM schools that integrate art and design into their current STEM curriculum and expands the grades that STEM and STEAM schools can serve to K-12.
* Recognition of high school credits for students who participate in work based learning experiences
  + Participating in “hands-on training” and gaining real-world experience is how students can attain the “hard skills” necessary to start their journey in many technical careers.
* Reforms certificates of qualification for employment to help inmates transition into the workforce upon reentry
* The requirement that the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Higher Education to create Workforce regional counseling collaboratives utilizing local partnerships in each of the JOBS Ohio regions.

**HB 166’s Substitute bill contains the following provisions:**

* Designates the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week
  + This is critical in getting the public aware of the different job opportunities that are available in our state, across many industries.
* Revises the training requirements for alternative resident educator licenses
  + By revising the training requirements, we will help to expand the pool of high-quality teachers. It makes it easier for Ohio schools to hire and retain nontraditional candidates who wish to transition to careers as classroom teachers and it helps school districts to address staffing needs in teacher shortage areas.

Passing this bill is key to seeing the workforce policies of HB 166, that were rolled into the budget, being fully realized and understood by the public and it will allow school districts the necessary flexibility to hire high-quality teachers to teach the skills needed for the 21st century economy.

Thank you, I would be happy to address any concerns or questions.