

Committees:

Vice-Chair, Primary & Secondary Education
Agriculture & Conservation
Health
Higher Education & Career Readiness



Contact Information:

Office: (614) 644-6034
Email: Rep66@ohiohouse.gov

77 S. High St., Columbus, OH 43215

Representative Adam C. Bird
Ohio House District 66

Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 583
Before the House Committee on Primary & Secondary Education
March 1, 2022

Chair Manning, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of the House Primary & Secondary Education Committee, thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 583, which will ensure that all Ohio schools have sufficient personnel to teach students during the 2022-23 school year.

The manpower challenges for school districts continue to cause issues in providing uninterrupted teaching and instruction for students. This current school year has seen K-12 students forced into remote learning because of a lack of substitute teachers. House Bill 583 will expand the pool of licensed substitutes that schools would have available, and would reduce the number of remote learning days caused by lack of available substitute teachers.

What does House Bill 583 do? It does all of the following:

- Establishes a short term substitute license defined as 5 or fewer consecutive days in the same classroom. To qualify, this extends the language used during the previous two school years that would allow a local board of education to determine that the applicant meets the local board's educational requirements.
- Establishes a long term substitute license defined as 6 or more consecutive days in the same classroom. To qualify, the applicant must meet one of the following:
 - Hold and associate's degree and be aged 21 or older
 - Honorably discharged from the military and aged 21 or older
 - Earned 60 credit hours towards a Bachelor's degree and aged 21 or older
 - Or completed 5 years of experience as a classroom educational aide

House Bill 583 also:

- Allows a Student Teacher assigned to the school to be used as a substitute teacher for up to 10 days.
- Sunsets in 2025.
- And includes an emergency clause so that these measures can be in place by the start of the 2022-23 school year.

We have gathered input on the language of this bill from local superintendents, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators, the Ohio School Boards Association, the Ohio Federation of Teachers, and the Ohio Education Association. House Bill 583 will provide critical support to our schools and allow students to attend classes for the entirety of the upcoming school year without disruption.

Representative Jones and I will be happy to answer your questions.