

**Committees:**

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



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**Representative Adam C. Bird**  
**Ohio House District 66**

**Sponsor Testimony**  
**House Bill 67**  
**Before the Senate Primary & Secondary Education Committee**

**February 9, 2021**

Chairman Brenner, Vice-Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee - thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Substitute House Bill 67 along with my joint sponsor, Representative Koehler.

Primary and secondary schools in Ohio have had an incredibly challenging year. Even in the best of years, we have made these assessments such a high stakes event that instructional days are lost as schools pull together teachers, interventionists, aides, administrators and bring in substitute teachers in order to comply with testing protocols, IEP required modifications and accommodations.

These tests are an “all hands on deck” event that costs schools instructional weeks each spring.

Substitute House Bill 67, which passed with a vote of 93-1 from the Ohio House last week, seeks to comply with many competing directives... some coming from the U.S. Department of Education, some coming from previous legislation in Ohio, some coming from the Ohio Department of Education, and then there is the reality that it is already March with testing scheduled to begin soon.

Besides the issues brought up by Rep. Koehler, we are asking to:

1. Remove the American History End of Course Exam for high schoolers,
2. Expand the testing window in English Language Arts to May 7
3. Expand the testing window in Math, Science, and Social Studies to May 21
4. Require the State Superintendent to extend all statutory reporting deadline
5. In high school, allow the final course grade to substitute for the end of course assessment score to comply with graduation requirements.

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Under the provisions of this bill, Ohio will comply with federal ESSA law (Every Student Succeeds Act) and will comply with the VERY recent directive from the US Department of Education - which means that we will still give the federally required:

- English Language Arts exams for grades 3 – high school
- Math exams for grades 3-HS
- Science exams for grades 5, 8 and high school.

Unfortunately, despite earning broad support in the House and a nearly unanimous vote, the emergency clause was removed from this bill. I implore you, Mr. Chairman, and the Members of this committee to re-add the emergency clause. Without it, Substitute House Bill 67 will not take effect in time to influence this school year's testing.

Substitute House Bill 67 is not the bill we started with. However, after consulting the Ohio Department of Education, legislative colleagues, local education staff, parents, and students – this bill provides some reprieve for end of the year testing. I will be the first to admit that this is not a perfect bill. But, it is what we NEED to support our teachers, students, parents, and school administrators.

This bill has gained bi-partisan legislative backing in the Ohio House. Substitute House Bill 67 is also supported by the:

- Ohio Education Association
- Ohio School Boards Association
- Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators
- Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators
- Alliance for High Quality Education
- Greater Recovery and Dropout – Prevention Schools Coalition (GRADS)

Thank you again for allowing me to speak in support of Substitute House Bill 67 – at this time, Representative Koehler and I would be happy to answer any questions.