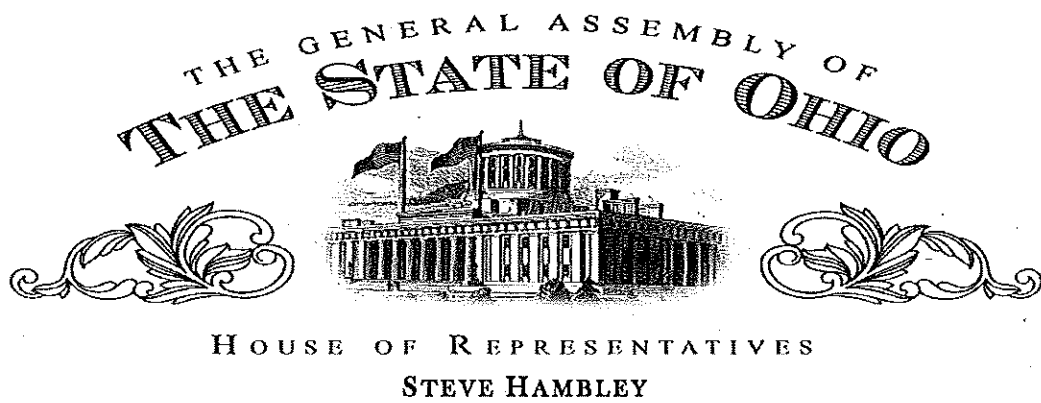


Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Ohio House Education and Career Readiness committee: thank you for allowing me to present to you House Bill 21 which would update the Ohio Revised Code requiring community schools to keep adequate records of where their enrollees reside. This legislation provides a straightforward solution to a problem that many local school districts are facing.

Currently under Ohio law, the responsibility for identifying the residency of a community school enrollee is almost exclusively the duty of public school districts. In summary, the law says the public school district in which a student resides is responsible for doing a monthly review of a community school student's entitlement to attend school in that district. Only if the public district determines that a child does not reside in the district and notifies the community school is the community school obligated to determine where the child has moved.

The origin of House Bill 21 comes from my local public schools. During one of my regular meetings with superintendents in Medina County, they brought forth the problem at hand. The issue for them was this: school districts sometimes never meet these students, especially if they are enrolled in an on-line web based school. They are rarely, if ever, in contact with the families, and have no concrete way of knowing that the child still lives within the boundaries of the school district. Without this

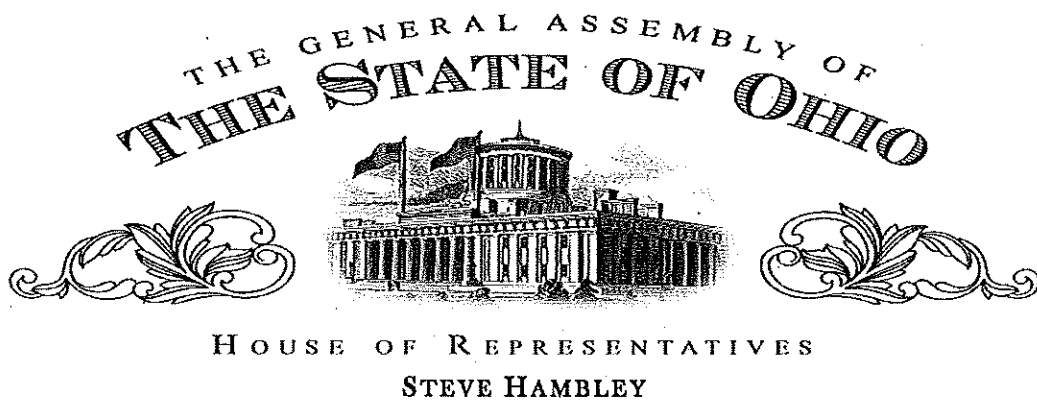


physical contact, the school district has no way of knowing if a student changes their residency. Families and students moving once or multiple times throughout a school year make it difficult and impractical for public school districts to determine that a child does not reside in the district and thereby notify the community school, as the current law requires.

By requiring community schools to report this data, not only will the records of our students be more accurate, but we can also ensure that the public funding that follows the child comes from the appropriate public accounts.

Over the last year in meetings with various stakeholders on HB 21, I have heard stories that punctuate the need for this proposed change in law. One local district related that after investigation they were paying for computers being sent to Montana, while another told me that hundreds of thousands of dollars on investigators were being spent annually by a large urban district to verify the residency of community school students that moved out of their district. What I have heard repeatedly is that this problem is widespread and needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

I am aware that this particular issue has come before the EMIS Advisory Board last year and hopeful that the hearings and deliberations will result in some much-needed reforms of the EMIS. However, in the meantime, I am equally hopeful that this committee will agree the incremental

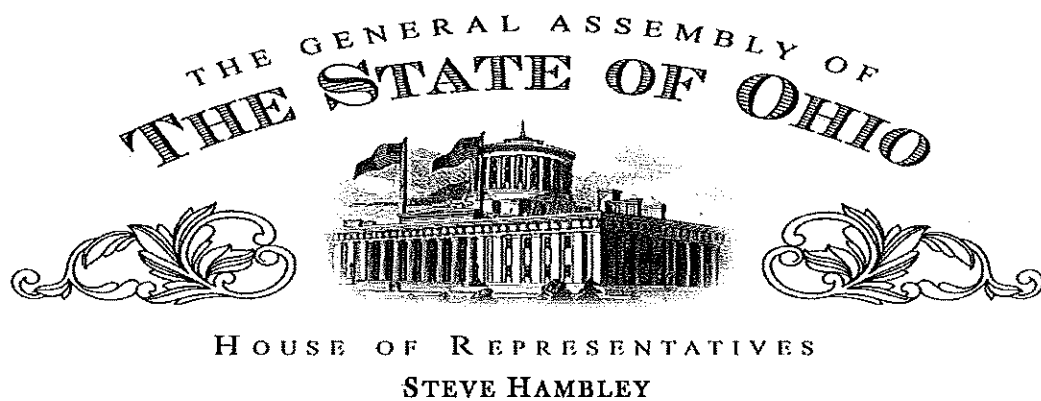


improvement envisioned in HB 21 is worth enacting now. HB 21 will provide considerable relief to the public school districts burdened with proving monthly that a student does or does not live in their district regardless of whether they attend or don't attend their schools. Placing that responsibility on the schools providing those educational services would appear to me to be the simplest and fairest way to make sure the public funds come from the appropriate public accounts.

In some cases, we have found community schools may be aware of children no longer living in the school district in which they enrolled, but because no changes were made from the previous year, student residency is automatically approved. The redacted documents attached to my testimony illustrate the problem at hand.

On the first document a student enrolled on August 22, 2016 in a community school was reportedly living in Cloverleaf Local School District. The student's residency is automatically approved by the system because the student didn't update their address and the community school was not obligated to verify residency in subsequent months. This action is not reviewable by the district.

On the second document, provided on the same day as the former, the community school was required to withdraw the student on January 19, 2017 for lack of attendance. You can see that the community school had



the student's most recent address on file as being in the Cleveland City Municipal School District. This was not updated, nor was it required to be updated in the EMIS system until the student disenrolled from the community school.

Sometime between August 22nd and January 19<sup>th</sup> the student must have changed residence from Medina County to Cuyahoga County. As the Superintendent from Cloverleaf expressed to me about this specific situation: "we are stuck having money deducted from our school district to them (the community school) for a student that does not reside in our district." With the permission of the chair and committee, we have other interested parties ready to share at future hearings similar examples that prove this example is not a rare occurrence.

We have the support of the Ohio Education Association and Buckeye Association of School Administrators, as well as the support from various superintendents across the state. I ask that you support House Bill 21, and I am available for any questions. Thank you.

SOES Resident District - Student Detail

Name	SSID	Birthdate	Gender	Year	First Reported	Last Updated	Active
Redacted			Male	2017	09/14/2016	01/19/2017	true

Derived Enrollment Dates	District of Residence	Guardian	Address
08/22/2016 - 01/18/2017	Cloverleaf Local (048488)	Redacted	GREENWICH RD SEVILLE OH 44271

Reviews

Date Range	Review Flags	Comments
09/15/2016		Student residency auto approved based on no changes in data from prior year

Educating Entity	Derived Enrollment Dates	Pet of					Sent Reason	Last Updated
		Grade	Title	FTE	Homeless	How Revd		
Electronic Classroom Of Tomorrow (133413)	08/22/2016 - 01/18/2017	12	100	TDB	N/A	M	01/19/2017	

Not Reviewable by District



1/18/2017

Cloverleaf Local (Medina Co)  
Attn: Attendance Officer  
8525 Friendsville Rd  
Lodi, OH 44254

289343/105D

To Whom It May Concern:

Ohio Revised Code §3314.03(A)(6)(b) requires a community school to withdraw students who have not participated in educational activity for 106 consecutive hours. This letter is to inform you that [REDACTED], a resident of your district has been withdrawn from the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow for non-attendance as required by law.

Student Name (ECOT ID): [REDACTED] **REDACTED**  
Student DOB: [REDACTED]  
Parent/Guardian: [REDACTED]  
Address: [REDACTED] W 84TH ST  
Cleveland, OH 44102  
Home Phone: [REDACTED]  
Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

For students between the ages of 6 and 18, ECOT will take the following actions:

1. File a complaint against the student and/or parent in juvenile court.
2. Send a referral to the Department of Job and Family Services.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the attendance office at 1-888-326-8395 Ext. 7999, Monday-Friday between 8:00am and 5:30pm.

289343-12