



Don Jones
State Representative

Chairwoman Manning, Vice-Chairman Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary & Secondary Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on HB 151 today.

House Bill 151 will revise Ohio's Teacher Residency Program, which was established in 2011. Since then it has undergone many changes, most recently in the waning days of the 133rd General Assembly it was shortened to 2 years from 4 years. However, the root problem remains the same. There is too much state control in the everyday lives of new teachers, and redundant and tedious requirements are driving those younger teachers out of the profession.

House Bill 151 is simple:

- Requires Local Professional Development Committees to establish a 2 year mentorship program that “reflects on instructional practices, an introduction to the teaching profession and the school district or school, as well as any other topic determined appropriate by the committee.”
- Assigns each new teacher a mentor teacher that has at least 5 years of experience and has renewed their professional license at least once
- Requires each school district to give one day of professional development to new teachers in each of those two years to observe a veteran teacher in action in the classroom
- Removes any statewide summative assessment

This bill restores vital local control to our districts to ensure our kids are in the hands of the very best educators. Teachers are best evaluated and mentored by their peers and principals. The Ohio New Teacher Mentorship Program is solely reliant on peer-to-peer mentorship. New teachers learn best from the tutelage of those who have proven themselves in the profession. This bill will have Local Professional Development Committees establish their own mentorship program, so districts are able to address their own needs rather than general broad strokes from a statewide program because while all great teachers share similar qualities, there is no statewide formula for a good teacher. This bill is critical for ensuring our local districts have the most control in how they train their teachers.

Chairwoman Manning, Vice-Chairman Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary & Secondary Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to present this vital local control bill to you and I look forward to your support and questions.