

Extended testing, report card moratoriums proposed in bi-partisan legislation

Legislation (S.B. 358) has been introduced to address school and district accountability issues against the backdrop of the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sponsored by Sen. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) and Sen. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo), the bill would extend the current exemption for schools from administering state achievement assessments for the 2020-2021 school year and bar ODE from publishing report card grades for schools and districts for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.

The bill would extend a number of provisions of COVID-related legislation (H.B. 164 and H.B. 197) enacted earlier this year related to funding, high school graduation, report cards and related sanctions and penalties, charter school sponsor evaluations and other issues.

Key education stakeholders – including the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, Ohio Association of School Business Officials, Ohio School Boards Association, Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators, Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators, Ohio Education Association, Ohio Federation of Teachers and Ohio Association of Charter School Authorizers – offered testimony in support of the bill.

The legislation would require the Ohio Department of Education to request a waiver of federal testing requirements which Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), who chairs the Senate Education Committee, believes is unlikely to be approved.



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