

**Committees:**

Finance

Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education –  
Chair

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and  
Homeland Security

Higher Education and Workforce  
Development

State and Local Government

Public Utilities



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**Commissions/Special Committees:**

Veterans' Caucus – Chair

Task Force on BRAC and Military Affairs – Chair  
Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee  
Ohio Third Frontier Commission Advisory Board  
Ohio Latino Affairs Commission

**State Representative Rick Perales**

**Criminal Justice Committee: 1:30pm, Room 114  
House Bill 409 Sponsor Testimony  
Veteran Treatment Court  
December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Celebrezze, and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for this opportunity to offer sponsor testimony for House Bill 409 along with my joint sponsor, Representative Jim Butler.

This bill is about taking care of our Veterans. It's time to make sure these women and men get the help they need to transition back into society. Adjusting back to life as a civilian can be difficult. These folks need a system that is going to consider their situation and help get them back on their feet. With this legislation, local governments will have access to courts that specifically and properly address veterans and their offenses, while recognizing and assisting them with their unique circumstances. It's time to let local governments have the ability to do this for our Veterans.

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Celebrezze, and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for this opportunity to offer sponsor testimony for House Bill 409. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.