



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE GARY SCHERER
HOUSE DISTRICT 92

Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 572
House Aging and Long Term Care Committee
May 16th, 2018

Chairman Arndt, Vice Chair Pelanda and members of the House Aging and Long Term Care Committee, thank you for allowing Ranking Member Stephanie Howse and myself to come before you today and present sponsor testimony on House Bill 572.

Earlier this year, all county boards of developmental disabilities in Ohio received notice that certain employees who are members of OPERS and who work throughout the 9 month school year would no longer be able to get a full year of retirement credit for their service—even if they spread their pay throughout the summer.

This primarily affects teacher assistants and bus assistants who work in county board of DD schools and early childhood programs. This changes the practice that has been in place for more than 30 years, and it would negatively impact the retirement planning of many dedicated employees in Ohio's developmental disability support system.

This legislation will require the OPERS Board to grant a full year of service credit to a member employed as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of developmental disabilities if the member performs full-time services in the position for at least nine months of the year and is paid earnable salary in each month of that year.

If this change is not reversed, a new teacher assistant in one of these schools would need to work a total of 36 years to build up the equivalent of 30 full years of retirement benefits for a teacher assistant in a public school district. That is 6 additional years of work for the same result.

Once again, Chairman Arndt and members of the House Aging and Long Term Care Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on behalf of HB 572. We would be happy to try and answer any questions.