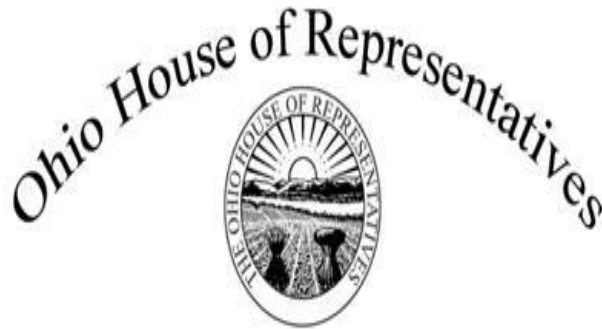


99 House District  
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Committees

Agriculture and Conservation;  
Armed Services and Veterans  
Affairs; Primary and Secondary  
Education; State and Local  
Government

**Sarah Fowler Arthur**  
State Representative

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Education Committee,

I am pleased to offer HB 403 for consideration, along with my joint sponsor, Representative Miller. This bill is simple and straightforward – a single word change to close the current loophole that an educator accused of misconduct may retire and therefore avoid any further investigation of the complaint. Unfortunately, should the allegations have substance, the current loophole would allow a guilty party back in the classroom because there is no record of the alleged misconduct beyond the school where they were employed. This means a substitute teacher, classroom aide, or even a retiree rehiring in another district could have a criminal allegation (such as sexual misconduct with students, alcohol or drug abuse, or other conduct unbecoming a teacher) and still enter a new classroom with a clean slate.

Representative Miller and I are proposing HB 403 to close this loophole, to ensure that all allegations are properly investigated, and that any appropriate sanctions are utilized to protect students from abuse by their authority figures.

I would like to note that we have recently received some interested party feedback with several additional licensure loopholes that we are considering to ensure the RAPBACK system is working accurately to keep good educators in the classroom and bad actors out of it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Fowler Arthur

Sarah Fowler Arthur  
Ohio State Representative  
99<sup>th</sup> District

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Fowler Arthur".