



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Representative Jay Edwards

House Bill 225 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Member Sobecki and members of the House Ways & Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 225.

House Bill 225 is a piece of legislation that recognizes the hard work of volunteer firefighters, volunteer EMS personnel and volunteer peace officers that oftentimes goes unnoticed and without credit.

Under House Bill 225, these unsung heroes of our communities would be eligible for tax credits based on participation rates and continuing years of service.

Lately, we're seeing an alarming trend across the state of less and less men and women willing to step up and volunteer to become a volunteer firefighter, EMS worker or peace officer. One of the many goals of this legislation is to reverse this trend by going above and beyond to show support to these brave volunteers.

House Bill 225 provides three tiers for applicable individuals to receive a tax credit. Those with 1-5 years of service can be eligible for \$500 a year. Those with 6-10 years of service can be eligible for \$1,000 a year, and those with 11 plus years of service can be eligible for \$2,000 a year.

Volunteer firefighters, EMS personnel and peace officers accept their responsibilities without the intention of receiving any financial compensation and although the proposed tax credited laid out in House Bill 225 would only present a small token of our appreciation towards them, we know any amount would go a long way to remove any tax burdens they might be facing.

It's time we give credit where credit is due and show support to volunteer firefighters, EMS personnel and peace officers who work day in and day out to keep our communities a safe place.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 225.