



William P. DeMora
State Senator
25th Senate District

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Chair Hillyer, Vice Chair Mathews, ranking member Isaacsohn, members of the House Civil Justice committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 173.

This bill will update public records law to designate election workers as public service workers. A public service worker is a classification of public employees who works in a potentially high-risk field. For their protection, their residential and familial information is redacted from any records before they are released.

Other examples of Public service workers include peace officers, firefighters, EMTs, prosecuting and assistant prosecuting attorneys, county or multicounty corrections employees, mental health evaluation providers, judges, and magistrates, and federal law enforcement officers. This bill will simply add our election workers to this list.

The original idea for this legislation came from a session at NCSL last year that stated that elections workers are being targeted for doing their jobs. Since then election workers in Ohio have been threatened including bullets being shot through the window of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. So, Senator Gavarone and I introduced this simple, non-controversial change that will add election workers to a pre-existing program that will protect them from malicious actors that would wish harm upon them. There is no cost attached to this bill; there is very little extra work that would be required. It is simply adding election workers to this list.

This bill had no opponents in committee and passed nearly unanimously in the Senate, and I hope that you will also recognize that SB173 is the minimum that we can do to ensure that they can do their job. Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William P. DeMora".

Senator William P. DeMora
Ohio Senate District 25