

65th House District:

Part of Ashtabula County
Part of Trumbull County

Committees:

Ways and Means, Vice Chair
Arts, Athletics and Tourism
Energy
Public Insurance and Pensions



Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center
77 South High Street 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 466- 3488
Rep65@ohiohouse.gov
<https://ohiohouse.gov/>

David Thomas

State Representative for the 65th House District

House Bill 248 Sponsor Testimony Before the Ohio House General Government Committee May 13, 2025

Chair Ray, Vice-Chair Fischer, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to give Sponsor Testimony on HB 248, a cleanup bill for the Auditor of State's Office and operations to remove outdated code, give clarity on operations, and add training efficiency for local governments.

This bill is a whopping 90 pages of cleanup, something that was long overdue. The updates in this bill include sections such as removing audits of Chapter 3326 technical schools as they are considered public STEM schools and follow the same guidelines and adding compliance language to meet the upcoming GASB 103 for comparison budgeting.

There are also four sections pertaining to education requirements and the process to report those requirements to the Auditor of State. And finally a bulk of the updates are changing code to reflect the current operations of the Auditor of State's Office.

For example, for an entity to create a special fund, which I did quite a bit as Auditor in Ashtabula County, the current code states that the Auditor of State's Office must consult with the Tax Commissioner. This is not relevant to the needs of the Department of Tax nor does it occur currently.

Or, unclaimed funds as statutory language for the process to be done in conjunction with the Auditor of State. Unclaimed funds however, are handled by the Office of Budget and Management and not the Auditor of State.

I have also attached a summary of the changes, and am happy to answer any

questions of the committee to the best of my knowledge. If I cannot answer, I am sure the Auditor of State's Office would be ready to answer in their testimony or separately.