



Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters

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Public Insurance & Pension Committee

Proponent Testimony HB 280

President Jon Harvey

October 15, 2025

Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you in strong support of *House Bill 280*. I am Jon Harvey, President of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters (OAPFF) and served for 32 years as a professional Firefighter, 30 years at Middletown Fire Department; where I retired at the rank of Captain.

Since 1918, the OAPFF has represented Ohio's full-time professional fire fighters, Over 14,000 men and women who put their lives and futures on the line for the safety, stability, and prosperity of the community they serve all over this state.

Today, we stand united, fire fighters, and police officers, shoulder to shoulder, to protect not only the citizens we serve, but also the financial integrity of the retirement system that has served Ohio's first responders for generations.

The Principle Behind HB 280

For nearly four decades, fire fighters have borne the weight of pension equity. We have done so quietly, without complaint, and without the right to strike. Yet equity requires balance and *HB 280* restores it.

This legislation brings the Police & Fire Pension Fund into the modern era, reinforcing the foundation of trust between the state, its public servants, and the taxpayers we all serve.

- First, it raises employer contribution rates for police from 19.5% to 24% over five years, matching the level held by fire departments, with future adjustments tied to actuarial necessity, not politics.
- Second, it maintains the 24% rate for fire employers while empowering the Fund to make targeted adjustments to preserve solvency.
- Third, it mandates a 30-year cap on unfunded liabilities, with transparent reporting to the Legislature and a clear corrective plan should solvency ever waver.

In short: this is a bill about fairness, foresight, and fiduciary discipline, Period!

HB 280 Comparison Chart

Feature	HB 512	HB 296	HB 280
Police Employer Rate	19.5% to 26.5% (2022-27)	19.5% to 24% (2025-30)	19.5% to 24% over 5 years
Fire Employer Rate	24% to 26.5% (2022-27)	No change specified	24%, subject to actuarial adj.
Employee Rate	No change	10% to 12.5% by 2030	No change
Actuarial Oversight	Not specified	Consulting actuary	30-year max, reports required
Rate Adjustment Authority	Not specified	Board may adjust	Board required to adjust if fund unsafe

What HB 280 Is Not

Unlike past proposals, HB 280 avoids overreach. It does not impose sweeping increases on small townships or rural jurisdictions. Every adjustment is deliberate, tied to actuarial data, and grounded in accountability.

This is not a blunt instrument ...it's a scalpel. It corrects imbalance without cutting too deep.

Why It Matters

For over a century, Ohio's fire fighters and police officers have shown up... through pandemics, disasters, and crises... without interruption, without leverage, and without the ability to walk away.

We ask only for what is just: a secure and dignified retirement that honors a lifetime of public service.

A strong retirement system is not a luxury it is a strategic investment in Ohio's safety infrastructure. It attracts talent. It retains experience. It preserves institutional strength. And when those elements are strong, every Ohioan benefits.

HB 280 ensures that our retirement system remains solvent, equitable, and worthy of the men and women who dedicate their lives to the protection of others.

In closing, Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters urges your support and your partnership in strengthening the very system that stands behind every badge, every uniform, and every oath sworn to serve and protect the people of Ohio.

I would like to personally thank the following legislators for last year's support of HB 296, which is the base of HB 280:

Cindy Abrams (R)	Rachel B. Baker (D)	Adam C. Bird (R)	Willis E. Blackshear, Jr. (D)	Anita Somani (D)
Sean P. Brennan (D)	Darnell T. Brewer (D)	Richard D. Brown (D)	Jamie Callender (R)	Dick Stein (R)
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Marilyn S. John (R)	Mark Johnson (R)	Don Jones (R)	Roy Klopfenstein (R)	Jim Thomas (R)
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Adam C. Miller (D)	Joseph A. Miller, III (D)	Kevin D. Miller (R)	Melanie Miller (R)	Casey Weinstein (D)
Scott Oelslager (R)	Thomas F. Patton (R)	Gail K. Pavliga (R)	Beryl Piccolantonio (D)	Andrea White (R)
Sharon A. Ray (R)	Tracy M. Richardson (R)	Justin Pizzulli (R)	Phil Plummer (R)	Jodi Whitted (D)
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C. Allison Russo (D)	Jean Schmidt (R)	Bill Seitz (R)	Michael J. Skindell (D)	Josh Williams (R)
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