

October 11, 2025

I apologize for not being available in person. I feel this is very important to me as a constituent and concerned Ohio employee. I am writing to urge your support for House Bill 424, which addresses the transfers and purchases of certain retirement service credits within the state's public pension systems.

The current system creates long-term implications that can prevent experienced and dedicated public servants from pursuing opportunities where our skills and leadership can have the greatest impact. As an employee with years of service in one pension system and now a position with another, I am not able to utilize either retirement system due to the current policies. Combining the pensions would help many of us in the same situation.

My work history as of this date is over thirty three (33) years of service; however under two separate Ohio pensions which makes me ineligible for retirement in either of them.

I have paid into both pension plans. If I only paid into one of them solely, I would be eligible to retire at thirty (30) years.

I have twenty seven (27) total years in police work, but the majority of those years are under the Police and Fire Retirement System (15 ½ years) with the others being under Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. I also currently work at a city in the public works and have six (6) years paying into OPERS.

I have contacted both pensions and was advised I would need at least a total of forty four (44) years to collect my pension from OPERS. As it stands right now I cannot retire unless I surpass the years I have in police and fire. I had previously transferred my PERS years into police and fire, but now I am being advised I cannot do any transfers to combine them at this time with me being employed with a PERS pension again.

This bill would be so beneficial to enable employees to accept jobs with different municipalities no matter what Ohio pension plan they provide. A unified system allows employees to move between participating municipalities without losing or having to manually transfer their retirement credits. This ensures a seamless continuation of pension benefits throughout their career, which is a major advantage for employee recruitment and retention.

This House Bill represents a simple, yet necessary, update to Ohio's labor law requirements. It embraces technology to improve accessibility for employees and create greater efficiency for employers. I respectfully request that you champion this bill in the Senate Workforce Development Committee and vote to ensure its passage.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jason McCollum
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