



William P. DeMora

State Senator
25th Senate District

Committees:

Public Utilities - *Ranking*
Ways and Means - *Ranking*
Energy
Financial Institutions, Insurance, and Technology
General Government
Government Oversight and Reform

Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Blackshear, members of the Senate General Government committee, thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Senate

Senate Bill 82 is a reintroduction of last GA's SB 173, and just like last GA, 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, magistrates, and federal law enforcement officers. This bill will simply add our full-time election workers to this list.

The original idea for this legislation came from a session at NCSL 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.

Last year, this bill had no opponents in committee and passed nearly unanimously in the Senate, and I hope that we can do that again this year and get it over the finish line in the House.

Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.