



# State Senator TERESA FEDOR

*Serving Ohio's 11th State Senate District*

**Sponsor Testimony – S.B. 271  
Senate General Government Budget Committee**

**March 1, 2022**

Chair Petterson, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate General Government Budget Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 271, which is joint sponsored by Leader Yuko, who unfortunately could not be here today.

This legislation would officially designate the Walleye as the state fish of Ohio.

Like many of you, Senator Yuko and I received an email from NBC4 WCMH-TV in Columbus about a poll they conducted to pick the type of fish to be officially named Ohio's state fish. As you can see from the following results, the winner was Lake Erie's famous walleye pulling 27.5% of the vote, followed by yellow perch and small mouth bass.

Rank	Fish	Percent	Votes
1.	Walleye	27.5%	274
2.	Yellow perch	20.8%	207
3.	Smallmouth bass	20.6%	205
4.	Bluegill	9.3%	93
5.	Combination walleye/bass	5.9%	59

Ohio is one of only three states without an official state fish. While this debate has been ongoing for years, the National Wildlife Federation already considers the Walleye the unofficial fish of Ohio, and for good reason.

Walleye are not just found in Lake Erie, they can also be found in the Ohio River and throughout tributaries, and stocked reservoirs throughout the state. Plus, Walleye are the number one target for sports fishing spurring economic activity to the tune of \$1 billion a year. Bottom line, the Walleye is an integral part of Ohio's culture and economy.

Additionally, this legislation and the House companion bill H.B. 484 are going to be used by NBC4 to educate the public on the legislative process using a popular topic and an easy-to-understand bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony. At this time, I can answer any from the committee.