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From the desk of:
Riordan McClain
State Representative

Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Pizzulli, Ranking Member Dell'Aquila, and members of the House Financial Institutions Committee, thank you for allowing my Joint Sponsor and I to provide sponsor testimony on H.B. 481.

I want you to take a moment and think about what is money? What is the first thing that comes to mind? And what makes that money valuable? The history of money is a fascinating subject that has transitioned from bartering to coin minting, to banknotes backed by physical assets such as the gold standard, to fiat currencies of today, new developments like blockchain based cryptocurrencies, and the return to gold backed money being pursued by the BRICS countries, many of which are adversaries to the United States.

Today, many among us would have thought about the US Dollar as money when I asked before. The greenback Federal Reserve note that is controlled by the central bank and once upon a time was backed by physical gold. It is no longer backed by the gold standard or any other physical asset, but by the "Full Faith and Credit" of the United States Government. The removal of any limiting factor to our current money supply has given a credit card with no limit to the Fed and has led to reckless government debt spending and dollar devaluation.

Precious metals, specifically gold and silver have been a naturally limited means of value storage and thus a monetary vessel for most of human history. The US Constitution lists the only tender of payment of debts the states may authorize as being gold or silver coins. And thus, to hedge against the rapid dollar devaluation and protect Ohioan's assets I submit this legislation for consideration.

This bill does 3 things:

1. Requires the Treasurer of State to accept bullion or specie as payment for any debt, tax, fee, or other obligation.
2. Requires the Treasurer to keep in the state treasury an amount of bullion or specie greater than or equal to 2% of all state funds.
3. Allows an income tax deduction for capital gains on the sale of physically held bullion or specie.

Gold and silver are money, plain and simple. The reasons to reverse course on monetary policy and treat it as such are many, but none more important than the rampant expansion of our federal government via dollar printing and spending. This bill would allow for Ohioans to utilize the time-tested monetary value of gold and silver to its fullest.

Thank you and I will turn it over to Majority Leader Seitz.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Riordan McClain".