



The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

House Bill 78: Proponent Testimony
House Pensions Committee
Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Chair Young, Vice Chair King, Ranking Member Lightbody, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Scott DiMauro. I am a high school government teacher from Worthington and have the honor of serving as President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). On behalf of OEA's 120,000 members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 78 as amended.

Under current law, reemployed retirees in the STRS system are not permitted to run for election to the STRS Board of Trustees. As introduced, House Bill 78 would allow them to run for either an active member seat or a retiree member seat. OEA believes that reemployed retirees in the STRS system should be permitted to run for the STRS Board of Trustees. However, as they are retired through the system, they should run as a retiree member of the Board rather than being able to pick and choose which seat to run for. The retiree seat is the Board election retirees are eligible to participate in as voters. Further, this aligns with how reemployed retirees are treated in other Ohio public pension systems.

OEA and other entities have recommended that the bill be amended to allow reemployed retirees to run for the STRS Board but limit it to a retiree seat. Last month, the Ohio Retirement Study Council recommended adoption of such an amendment. The proposed amendment would implement this change to the bill. With the inclusion of the amendment, OEA is in support of HB 78.

Chair Young, this concludes my testimony. If members of the committee have any questions, feel free to reach out to me or OEA Government Relations staff.

