

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
For HB 4141

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 2:17 PM

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Hearing Date: March 29, 2023 8:00 AM

RODERICK MONTGOMERY

Self Detective Sergeant
Dallas, TX

Dear Members of the House,

I am writing to urge you to support legislation allowing police officers that work in school district police departments to retire with full benefits after 20 to 25 years of service, similar to retirement benefits offered by other police departments.

Police officers that work in school district police departments play an essential role in safeguarding our workplace and educational institutions. These officers face unique challenges and risk their lives daily to protect the public they serve. Unfortunately, they are often subject to the same high-stress environments and danger as other police officers, yet they do not receive the same retirement benefits.

It is unjust for officers of these departments to work demanding and dangerous jobs without the assurance that they can retire with the same benefits and opportunities as their counterparts in other police departments. Providing them with the same retirement benefits would also help to recruit and retain top candidates in these fields, ultimately benefiting the departments and communities they serve.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to support legislation ensuring fair retirement benefits for police officers at work and in school district police departments. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jorge Chavez, POII
self/ Texas Tech University-El Paso Police Officer
Horizon, TX

I support HB 4141.

Ronnie Humphrey, Chief of Police

Ronnie Humphrey Chief of Police Mt. Pleasant ISD Police Department
PITTSBURG, TX

I am in favor of this bill as it will allow for equal retirement qualifications for ISD police officers compared to other city, county, and state law enforcement officers. I wanted to attend the meeting in person, but in light of the recent school shootings in Arlington and Nashville, coupled with our department being short an officer, I don't feel comfortable being out of district. We recently had an officer leave to go to work for the local city police department. This is a common problem with school police departments. Officers give retirement/pension as one of the major issues for leaving. We ask them work an additional 15 years "rule of 90" as opposed to 20 or 25 year retirements with the city, county, and state. School district officers are also not able to receive the "LECOS" Law Enforcement Custodial Officer Supplemental Retirement fund like our fellow brothers and sisters in law enforcement. HB3869 and HB4141 will bring school district officers to an equal pension upon retirement.

J Ward

Self- Law Enforcement
Cleveland, TX

I support this bill, and its actions for campus based law enforcement in Texas.

David Garza, Cpt.

Pasadena ISD Police/Self
League City, TX

Officers that are hired to protect our students and staff should not be required to work until they are 65-70 yrs old. Responding to an active shooter is physically tasking and 35 to 40 years is to long to be carrying an extra 24-30 pounds of gear on your belt and back daily it wears you down. Most Officers work more then 40 hours a week so needless to say I support this bill and very much appreciate your efforts and getting this passed. Thank you.

Stewart Russell

Tx School Districts, Tx School District Police Chiefs' Assoc.(School Law Enforcement Committee), Tx Police Chiefs' Assoc. I am the Chief of Police for the Pasadena ISD PD 31 yrs.
Houston, TX

Changes need to be made to the retirement system for Texas School District Police Officers. The current retirement system rules are a huge obstacle for hiring and retaining qualified Police Officers. Current rules require some officers to work until the age of 65. Few Police Officers are physically able to do the job of a patrolman at 65. TRS is designed primarily for teachers. Police Officers carry 25 pounds of gear on their body at all times this takes a toll over the years. Climbing fences, running down school hallways, responding to active shooter is difficult for anyone 65 years old.

Please help fix School District Retirement for School District Police Officers.

Shane Wilson

self -isd police
Houston, TX

yes

Amber Murphy

Pasadena ISD
Pasadena, TX

I am a TRS member who this bill will affect; I am support of this Bill

Joe Garza, Officer
Pasadena ISD Police
Houston, TX

It is important to our families to have this bill passed. We are trying to compete with other agencies to keep officers due to low pay, pensions that are extremely hard to reach.