

## **Qualifying Gold and Silver as Permitted Assets for Investment by State Pension Fund**

This type of provision typically would appear in the permitted investments guidelines adopted by the state treasurer or the board or other body vested with authority to manage state pension funds. However, a state legislature may desire to incorporate precious metals permitted investment provisions into state law, whether as a means to protect pension fund managers from perceived risk of liability for losses on precious metals investments or to assuage managers' fears that precious metals investments may not qualify as permitted investments under existing investment guidelines (e.g., where investment guidelines prescribe safety of principal as a primary objective for investment of public funds).

According to Sound Money Defense League (<https://www.moneymetals.com/news/2022/01/20/oklahoma-to-consider-holding-gold-and-silver-removing-income-taxes-002456>), Ohio has held precious metals investments in state pension funds,<sup>5</sup> although it may not now hold them. Reportedly, the Texas Teacher Retirement Fund and the University of Texas at one time owned nearly \$1 billion in physical gold (see <https://www.soundmoneydefense.org/gold-silver-laws-ohio#Ohio-Government-Pension-Funds>)