



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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S.B. 322*

131st General Assembly
(As Reported by S. State & Local Government)

Sens. Hite, Lehner

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to develop and conduct a 40-hour chief of police training course for newly appointed chiefs of police.
- Specifies that the course content must include diversity training with an emphasis on historical perspectives and community-police relations.
- Allows for exemptions or deferrals from the course based on previous equivalent training, medical disability, or other good cause.
- Applies to newly appointed chiefs of police appointed on or after January 1, 2017, and requires their attendance at the course within six months after appointment.
- Requires usual compensation to be paid to chiefs of police while attending the chief of police training course.
- Provides that the costs of conducting the chief of police training course are to be paid from state funds appropriated to the Attorney General.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Chief of police training course

The bill requires the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to develop and conduct a 40-hour chief of police training course for newly appointed chiefs of police

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate State and Local Government Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

appointed on or after January 1, 2017. A "newly appointed chief of police" means a person appointed chief of police under specified sections of law¹ who did not hold the office on the date of appointment, any person otherwise designated as chief of police, or any administrative official who is responsible for the daily administration and supervision of peace officers in the township, city, or village. A newly appointed chief of police is required to attend the course within six months after appointment. The Commission must determine the course topics, but the course content must include diversity training with an emphasis on historical perspectives and community-police relations. The Commission must establish criteria for what constitutes successful completion of the course.

The course must be conducted at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy and be offered at least twice a year. The costs of conducting the training course are to be paid from state funds appropriated to the Attorney General.²

Exemptions or deferrals from the training course

The bill authorizes a newly appointed chief of police to request an equivalency exemption from a portion of the 40-hour course by submitting to the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission, within ten days after appointment, evidence of training or qualification in the subject area of the exempted portion.³

The Commission may defer a police chief's completion of the course upon evidence of a medical disability or other good cause until the disability or cause ends.⁴

Continuation of compensation; other costs

The bill requires the appointing political subdivision to continue the chief's compensation in the same manner and amount while the chief is attending the chief of police training course. Similarly, the appointing authority must incur the cost of meals, lodging, and travel for the chief while attending the course.⁵

¹ R.C. 505.49 (township police district or department, and joint police districts), 737.05 (municipal police departments), and 737.15 (village marshals, designated as chiefs of police).

² R.C. 109.804.

³ R.C. 109.804(B).

⁴ R.C. 109.804(C).

⁵ R.C. 505.49(H)(1), 737.052(C)(1), and 737.15(C)(1).



HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced
Reported, S. State & Local Gov't

05-02-16

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