



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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Testimony on House Bill 405

House Criminal Justice Committee

December 12, 2017

Chairman Manning and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Weinman and I am here today to give proponent testimony on House Bill (HB) 405/Counterfeiting on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Inc. (FOP). I am a retired Columbus police officer, who currently serves as the director of government affairs for the FOP. I am proud to represent over 26,000 full-time and retired law enforcement professionals who risk their lives on a daily basis protecting our communities. The membership of the FOP of Ohio includes municipal law enforcement officers, county deputies, township officers, and officers from most state law enforcement agencies (including OSP, OIU, ODNR, BCI and others).

HB 405 addresses the ambiguity in current law, by specifically creating a counterfeiting law that is easily understood and applies to not only bills, coins, and checks, but to credit and debit cards. From a patrol officers perspective current law is difficult to apply when called out to a convenience store on a report of an individual trying to pass counterfeit currency. It isn't any easier for detectives when working cases that become complicated because of the myriad of laws that may apply. Officers and detectives alike have to ask themselves, then later prosecutors, if the offense is criminal tools, fraud, theft... What exactly fits the crime? You know a crime is being committed, but which one?

The FOP of Ohio supports HB 405 which will clear up any confusion officers may encounter and allow them to take immediate and appropriate action as necessary. Therefore, the FOP respectfully requests the favorable reporting of HB 405.

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