

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2017-2018**

**S. B. No. 13**

**Senator Tavares  
Cosponsor: Senator Thomas**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 2315.18, 2323.43, 2744.02,  
2744.03, 2744.04, and 2744.05 and to enact  
sections 2743.021, 2744.021, and 2744.022 of the  
Revised Code to grant a person the right to  
lawfully record any incident involving a law  
enforcement officer and to impose civil  
liability upon the state or a local law  
enforcement agency if a law enforcement officer  
employed by the state or local law enforcement  
agency interferes with the recording of the  
incident, destroys the recording, seizes the  
recording without a warrant or subpoena or the  
person's consent, or retaliates against the  
person who recorded the incident.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 2315.18, 2323.43, 2744.02,  
2744.03, 2744.04, and 2744.05 be amended and sections 2743.021,  
2744.021, and 2744.022 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as  
follows:

<b>Sec. 2315.18.</b> (A) As used in this section and in section	19
2315.19 of the Revised Code:	20
(1) "Asbestos claim" has the same meaning as in section	21
2307.91 of the Revised Code.	22
(2) "Economic loss" means any of the following types of	23
pecuniary harm:	24
(a) All wages, salaries, or other compensation lost as a	25
result of an injury or loss to person or property that is a	26
subject of a tort action;	27
(b) All expenditures for medical care or treatment,	28
rehabilitation services, or other care, treatment, services,	29
products, or accommodations as a result of an injury or loss to	30
person or property that is a subject of a tort action;	31
(c) Any other expenditures incurred as a result of an	32
injury or loss to person or property that is a subject of a tort	33
action, other than attorney's fees incurred in connection with	34
that action.	35
(3) "Medical claim," "dental claim," "optometric claim,"	36
and "chiropractic claim" have the same meanings as in section	37
2305.113 of the Revised Code.	38
(4) "Noneconomic loss" means nonpecuniary harm that	39
results from an injury or loss to person or property that is a	40
subject of a tort action, including, but not limited to, pain	41
and suffering, loss of society, consortium, companionship, care,	42
assistance, attention, protection, advice, guidance, counsel,	43
instruction, training, or education, disfigurement, mental	44
anguish, and any other intangible loss.	45
(5) "Occurrence" means all claims resulting from or	46

arising out of any one person's bodily injury. 47

(6) "Product liability claim" has the same meaning as in 48  
section 2307.71 of the Revised Code. 49

(7) "Tort action" means a civil action for damages for 50  
injury or loss to person or property. "Tort action" includes a 51  
civil action upon a product liability claim or an asbestos 52  
claim. "Tort action" does not include a civil action upon a 53  
medical claim, dental claim, optometric claim, or chiropractic 54  
claim or a civil action for damages for a breach of contract or 55  
another agreement between persons. 56

(8) "Trier of fact" means the jury or, in a nonjury 57  
action, the court. 58

(B) In a tort action to recover damages for injury or loss 59  
to person or property, all of the following apply: 60

(1) There shall not be any limitation on the amount of 61  
compensatory damages that represents the economic loss of the 62  
person who is awarded the damages in the tort action. 63

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(3) of 64  
this section, the amount of compensatory damages that represents 65  
damages for noneconomic loss that is recoverable in a tort 66  
action under this section to recover damages for injury or loss 67  
to person or property shall not exceed the greater of two 68  
hundred fifty thousand dollars or an amount that is equal to 69  
three times the economic loss, as determined by the trier of 70  
fact, of the plaintiff in that tort action to a maximum of three 71  
hundred fifty thousand dollars for each plaintiff in that tort 72  
action or a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars for each 73  
occurrence that is the basis of that tort action. 74

(3) There shall not be any limitation on the amount of 75

compensatory damages that represents damages for noneconomic	76
loss that is recoverable in a tort action to recover damages for	77
injury or loss to person or property if the noneconomic losses	78
of the plaintiff are for either of the following:	79
(a) Permanent and substantial physical deformity, loss of	80
use of a limb, or loss of a bodily organ system;	81
(b) Permanent physical functional injury that permanently	82
prevents the injured person from being able to independently	83
care for self and perform life-sustaining activities.	84
(c) In determining an award of compensatory damages for	85
noneconomic loss in a tort action, the trier of fact shall not	86
consider any of the following:	87
(1) Evidence of a defendant's alleged wrongdoing,	88
misconduct, or guilt;	89
(2) Evidence of the defendant's wealth or financial	90
resources;	91
(3) All other evidence that is offered for the purpose of	92
punishing the defendant, rather than offered for a compensatory	93
purpose.	94
(d) If a trial is conducted in a tort action to recover	95
damages for injury or loss to person or property and a plaintiff	96
prevails in that action, the court in a nonjury trial shall make	97
findings of fact, and the jury in a jury trial shall return a	98
general verdict accompanied by answers to interrogatories, that	99
shall specify all of the following:	100
(1) The total compensatory damages recoverable by the	101
plaintiff;	102
(2) The portion of the total compensatory damages that	103

represents damages for economic loss; 104

(3) The portion of the total compensatory damages that 105  
represents damages for noneconomic loss. 106

(E) (1) After the trier of fact in a tort action to recover 107  
damages for injury or loss to person or property complies with 108  
division (D) of this section, the court shall enter a judgment 109  
in favor of the plaintiff for compensatory damages for economic 110  
loss in the amount determined pursuant to division (D) (2) of 111  
this section, and, subject to division (F) (1) of this section, 112  
the court shall enter a judgment in favor of the plaintiff for 113  
compensatory damages for noneconomic loss. Except as provided in 114  
division (B) (3) of this section, in no event shall a judgment 115  
for compensatory damages for noneconomic loss exceed the maximum 116  
recoverable amount that represents damages for noneconomic loss 117  
as provided in division (B) (2) of this section. Division (B) of 118  
this section shall be applied in a jury trial only after the 119  
jury has made its factual findings and determination as to the 120  
damages. 121

(2) Prior to the trial in the tort action described in 122  
division (D) of this section, any party may seek summary 123  
judgment with respect to the nature of the alleged injury or 124  
loss to person or property, seeking a determination of the 125  
damages as described in division (B) (2) of this section. 126

(F) (1) A court of common pleas has no jurisdiction to 127  
enter judgment on an award of compensatory damages for 128  
noneconomic loss in excess of the limits set forth in this 129  
section. 130

(2) If the trier of fact is a jury, the court shall not 131  
instruct the jury with respect to the limit on compensatory 132

damages for noneconomic loss described in division (B) (2) of 133  
this section, and neither counsel for any party nor a witness 134  
shall inform the jury or potential jurors of that limit. 135

(G) With respect to a tort action to which division (B) (2) 136  
of this section applies, any excess amount of compensatory 137  
damages for noneconomic loss that is greater than the applicable 138  
amount specified in division (B) (2) of this section shall not be 139  
reallocated to any other tortfeasor beyond the amount of 140  
compensatory damages that the tortfeasor would otherwise be 141  
responsible for under the laws of this state. 142

(H) This section does not apply to any of the following: 143

(1) Tort actions that are brought against the state in the 144  
court of claims, including, but not limited to, those actions in 145  
which a state university or college is a defendant and to which 146  
division (B) (3) of section 3345.40 of the Revised Code applies; 147

(2) Tort actions that are brought against political 148  
subdivisions of this state and that are commenced under or are 149  
subject to Chapter 2744. of the Revised Code. Division ~~(C)~~ (A) 150  
(3) of section 2744.05 of the Revised Code applies to 151  
recoverable damages in those actions. 152

(3) Wrongful death actions brought pursuant to Chapter 153  
2125. of the Revised Code. 154

(I) If the provisions regarding the limits on compensatory 155  
damages for noneconomic loss set forth in division (B) (2) of 156  
this section have been determined to be unconstitutional, then 157  
division (C) of this section and section 2315.19 of the Revised 158  
Code shall govern the determination of an award of compensatory 159  
damages for noneconomic loss in a tort action. 160

**Sec. 2323.43.** (A) In a civil action upon a medical, 161

dental, optometric, or chiropractic claim to recover damages for 162  
injury, death, or loss to person or property, all of the 163  
following apply: 164

(1) There shall not be any limitation on compensatory 165  
damages that represent the economic loss of the person who is 166  
awarded the damages in the civil action. 167

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (A) (3) of 168  
this section, the amount of compensatory damages that represents 169  
damages for noneconomic loss that is recoverable in a civil 170  
action under this section to recover damages for injury, death, 171  
or loss to person or property shall not exceed the greater of 172  
two hundred fifty thousand dollars or an amount that is equal to 173  
three times the plaintiff's economic loss, as determined by the 174  
trier of fact, to a maximum of three hundred fifty thousand 175  
dollars for each plaintiff or a maximum of five hundred thousand 176  
dollars for each occurrence. 177

(3) The amount recoverable for noneconomic loss in a civil 178  
action under this section may exceed the amount described in 179  
division (A) (2) of this section but shall not exceed five 180  
hundred thousand dollars for each plaintiff or one million 181  
dollars for each occurrence if the noneconomic losses of the 182  
plaintiff are for either of the following: 183

(a) Permanent and substantial physical deformity, loss of 184  
use of a limb, or loss of a bodily organ system; 185

(b) Permanent physical functional injury that permanently 186  
prevents the injured person from being able to independently 187  
care for self and perform life sustaining activities. 188

(B) If a trial is conducted in a civil action upon a 189  
medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic claim to recover 190

damages for injury, death, or loss to person or property and a 191  
plaintiff prevails with respect to that claim, the court in a 192  
nonjury trial shall make findings of fact, and the jury in a 193  
jury trial shall return a general verdict accompanied by answers 194  
to interrogatories, that shall specify all of the following: 195

(1) The total compensatory damages recoverable by the 196  
plaintiff; 197

(2) The portion of the total compensatory damages that 198  
represents damages for economic loss; 199

(3) The portion of the total compensatory damages that 200  
represents damages for noneconomic loss. 201

(C) (1) After the trier of fact in a civil action upon a 202  
medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic claim to recover 203  
damages for injury, death, or loss to person or property 204  
complies with division (B) of this section, the court shall 205  
enter a judgment in favor of the plaintiff for compensatory 206  
damages for economic loss in the amount determined pursuant to 207  
division (B) (2) of this section, and, subject to division (D) (1) 208  
of this section, the court shall enter a judgment in favor of 209  
the plaintiff for compensatory damages for noneconomic loss. In 210  
no event shall a judgment for compensatory damages for 211  
noneconomic loss exceed the maximum recoverable amount that 212  
represents damages for noneconomic loss as provided in divisions 213  
(A) (2) and (3) of this section. Division (A) of this section 214  
shall be applied in a jury trial only after the jury has made 215  
its factual findings and determination as to the damages. 216

(2) Prior to the trial in the civil action, any party may 217  
seek summary judgment with respect to the nature of the alleged 218  
injury or loss to person or property, seeking a determination of 219



the damages as described in division (A) (2) or (3) of this section. 220  
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(D) (1) A court of common pleas has no jurisdiction to enter judgment on an award of compensatory damages for noneconomic loss in excess of the limits set forth in this section. 222  
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(2) If the trier of fact is a jury, the court shall not instruct the jury with respect to the limit on compensatory damages for noneconomic loss described in divisions (A) (2) and (3) of this section, and neither counsel for any party nor a witness shall inform the jury or potential jurors of that limit. 226  
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(E) Any excess amount of compensatory damages for noneconomic loss that is greater than the applicable amount specified in division (A) (2) or (3) of this section shall not be reallocated to any other tortfeasor beyond the amount of compensatory damages that that tortfeasor would otherwise be responsible for under the laws of this state. 231  
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(F) (1) If pursuant to a contingency fee agreement between an attorney and a plaintiff in a civil action upon a medical claim, dental claim, optometric claim, or chiropractic claim, the amount of the attorney's fees exceed the applicable amount of the limits on compensatory damages for noneconomic loss as provided in division (A) (2) or (3) of this section, the attorney shall make an application in the probate court of the county in which the civil action was commenced or in which the settlement was entered. The application shall contain a statement of facts, including the amount to be allocated to the settlement of the claim, the amount of the settlement or judgment that represents the compensatory damages for economic loss and noneconomic loss, the relevant provision in the contingency fee agreement, and the 237  
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dollar amount of the attorney's fees under the contingency fee agreement. The application shall include the proposed distribution of the amount of the judgment or settlement.

(2) The attorney shall give written notice of the hearing and a copy of the application to all interested persons who have not waived notice of the hearing. Notwithstanding the waivers and consents of the interested persons, the probate court shall retain jurisdiction over the settlement, allocation, and distribution of the claim.

(3) The application shall state the arrangements, if any, that have been made with respect to the attorney's fees. The attorney's fees shall be subject to the approval of the probate court.

(G) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(1) Civil actions upon a medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic claim that are brought against the state in the court of claims, including, but not limited to, those actions in which a state university or college is a defendant and to which division (B) (3) of section 3345.40 of the Revised Code applies;

(2) Civil actions upon a medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic claim that are brought against political subdivisions of this state and that are commenced under or are subject to Chapter 2744. of the Revised Code. Division ~~(C)~~ (A) (3) of section 2744.05 of the Revised Code applies to recoverable damages in those actions;

(3) Wrongful death actions brought pursuant to Chapter 2125. of the Revised Code.

(H) As used in this section:

(1) "Economic loss" means any of the following types of pecuniary harm:	278 279
(a) All wages, salaries, or other compensation lost as a result of an injury, death, or loss to person or property that is a subject of a civil action upon a medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic claim;	280 281 282 283
(b) All expenditures for medical care or treatment, rehabilitation services, or other care, treatment, services, products, or accommodations as a result of an injury, death, or loss to person or property that is a subject of a civil action upon a medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic claim;	284 285 286 287 288
(c) Any other expenditures incurred as a result of an injury, death, or loss to person or property that is a subject of a civil action upon a medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic claim, other than attorney's fees incurred in connection with that action.	289 290 291 292 293
(2) "Medical claim,dental claim," "optometric claim," and "chiropractic claim" have the same meanings as in section 2305.113 of the Revised Code.	294 295 296
(3) "Noneconomic loss" means nonpecuniary harm that results from an injury, death, or loss to person or property that is a subject of a civil action upon a medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic claim, including, but not limited to, pain and suffering, loss of society, consortium, companionship, care, assistance, attention, protection, advice, guidance, counsel, instruction, training, or education, disfigurement, mental anguish, and any other intangible loss.	297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304
(4) "Trier of fact" means the jury or, in a nonjury action, the court.	305 306

Sec. 2743.021. (A) A person has the right to lawfully 307  
record any incident involving a law enforcement officer and to 308  
maintain custody and control of that recording and the device 309  
used to record the recording. A law enforcement officer shall 310  
not seize a recording or recording device without consent, 311  
without a search warrant or subpoena, or without a lawful 312  
exception to the warrant or subpoena requirement. 313

(B) (1) If a law enforcement officer seeks to obtain from a 314  
person a device used to record an incident involving a peace 315  
officer in order to access the recording as possible evidence in 316  
an investigation, the law enforcement officer shall do all of 317  
the following: 318

(a) Advise the person of the law enforcement officer's 319  
name, badge number or other identifying number, and the 320  
officer's law enforcement agency; 321

(b) Identify the lawful reason for which the information 322  
is requested; 323

(c) If practicable under the circumstances, inquire 324  
whether the person will voluntarily provide the law enforcement 325  
officer with a copy of the specific recording that is relevant 326  
to the investigation either by voluntarily providing the device 327  
to the law enforcement officer or immediately electronically 328  
transferring the information to the law enforcement officer or 329  
the law enforcement officer's law enforcement agency. If the 330  
person immediately electronically transfers the information to 331  
the law enforcement officer or the law enforcement officer's law 332  
enforcement agency, the person shall retain possession of the 333  
device, the recording, and all personal nonevidentiary private 334  
information and recordings contained in the device. 335

(2) (a) If the person consents voluntarily to the transfer 336  
of the device to the law enforcement officer, the law 337  
enforcement officer and the officer's law enforcement agency 338  
shall limit any search of the device to a search for the 339  
recording that is relevant to the investigation. The law 340  
enforcement officer or the officer's law enforcement agency 341  
shall return the device to the person upon the person's request 342  
with all convenient speed. 343

(b) If the person consents to the electronic transfer of 344  
the recording, the electronic transfer shall take place as soon 345  
as possible and without unnecessary delay. 346

(3) In circumstances in which the immediate electronic 347  
transfer of the recording is not practicable, or when the person 348  
voluntarily consents to the electronic transfer of the 349  
evidentiary information or to the seizure of the device after 350  
having withheld voluntary consent, the law enforcement officer 351  
may arrange for the transfer or delivery of the information or 352  
device to the law enforcement officer or the officer's law 353  
enforcement agency by an alternative means consistent with any 354  
policies and procedures of the law enforcement agency. 355

(C) Notwithstanding division (B) of this section, a law 356  
enforcement officer has the authority to temporarily seize and 357  
maintain control over a device that was used to record an 358  
incident involving a law enforcement officer when exigent 359  
circumstances exist that the law enforcement officer believes 360  
that the seizure of the device is necessary to save a life or 361  
when the law enforcement officer has a reasonable, articulable, 362  
good-faith belief that the seizure of the device is necessary to 363  
prevent the destruction of the evidentiary recording while a 364  
search warrant or subpoena for the recording is obtained. The 365

law enforcement officer or the officer's law enforcement agency 366  
shall not maintain control over the device to obtain a search 367  
warrant or subpoena for the recording for longer than seventy- 368  
two hours after the device is seized and shall return the device 369  
to the person after obtaining the search warrant or subpoena or 370  
not later than seventy-two hours after the device is seized. 371

(D) The state is liable under sections 2743.01 to 2743.20 372  
of the Revised Code if a person lawfully records or attempts to 373  
record an incident involving a law enforcement officer and the 374  
officer or officer's law enforcement agency does any of the 375  
following: 376

(1) Unlawfully destroys or damages the recording or the 377  
recording device; 378

(2) Seizes the recording or recording device without 379  
permission, without lawful order of the court, or without other 380  
lawful grounds to seize the recording or recording device; 381

(3) Intentionally interferes with the person's lawful 382  
attempt to record the incident; 383

(4) Retaliates against the person for recording or 384  
attempting to record the incident; 385

(5) Refuses to return a recording device that contains a 386  
recording of the incident within a reasonable time period and 387  
without legal justification. 388

(E) If a person's electronic recording was lost, damaged, 389  
or destroyed as a result of the violation, the person may claim 390  
five hundred dollars as the value of the electronic recording in 391  
a civil action brought in the court of claims. 392

(F) This section does not apply to devices seized incident 393

to a person's arrest. 394

(G) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow a 395  
person to interfere with a law enforcement officer engaged in 396  
the lawful performance of the officer's duties. 397

(H) As used in this section: 398

(1) "Law enforcement officer" means an officer, agent, or 399  
employee of the state or any department, division, commission, 400  
board, bureau, or agency of the state upon whom, by statute, a 401  
duty to conserve the peace or to enforce all or certain laws is 402  
imposed and the authority to arrest violators is conferred. 403

(2) "Officer's law enforcement agency" means the state or 404  
department, division, commission, board, bureau, or agency of 405  
the state that employs the law enforcement officer. 406

(3) "Retaliate" means threatening or harassing a person 407  
who recorded or attempted to record an incident involving a law 408  
enforcement officer, or purposely harming or injuring the person 409  
or the person's property, as retaliation or retribution against 410  
the person. 411

**Sec. 2744.02.** (A) (1) For the purposes of this chapter, the 412  
functions of political subdivisions are hereby classified as 413  
governmental functions and proprietary functions. Except as 414  
provided in division (B) of this section, a political 415  
subdivision is not liable in damages in a civil action for 416  
injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly caused by 417  
any act or omission of the political subdivision or an employee 418  
of the political subdivision in connection with a governmental 419  
or proprietary function. 420

(2) The defenses and immunities conferred under this 421  
chapter apply in connection with all governmental and 422

proprietary functions performed by a political subdivision and 423  
its employees, whether performed on behalf of that political 424  
subdivision or on behalf of another political subdivision. 425

(3) Subject to statutory limitations upon their monetary 426  
jurisdiction, the courts of common pleas, the municipal courts, 427  
and the county courts have jurisdiction to hear and determine 428  
civil actions governed by or brought pursuant to this chapter. 429

(B) Subject to sections 2744.03 and 2744.05 of the Revised 430  
Code, a political subdivision is liable in damages in a civil 431  
action for injury, death, or loss to person or property 432  
allegedly caused by an act or omission of the political 433  
subdivision or of any of its employees in connection with a 434  
governmental or proprietary function, as follows: 435

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this division, 436  
political subdivisions are liable for injury, death, or loss to 437  
person or property caused by the negligent operation of any 438  
motor vehicle by their employees when the employees are engaged 439  
within the scope of their employment and authority. The 440  
following are full defenses to that liability: 441

(a) A member of a municipal corporation police department 442  
or any other police agency was operating a motor vehicle while 443  
responding to an emergency call and the operation of the vehicle 444  
did not constitute willful or wanton misconduct; 445

(b) A member of a municipal corporation fire department or 446  
any other firefighting agency was operating a motor vehicle 447  
while engaged in duty at a fire, proceeding toward a place where 448  
a fire is in progress or is believed to be in progress, or 449  
answering any other emergency alarm and the operation of the 450  
vehicle did not constitute willful or wanton misconduct; 451



(c) A member of an emergency medical service owned or operated by a political subdivision was operating a motor vehicle while responding to or completing a call for emergency medical care or treatment, the member was holding a valid commercial driver's license issued pursuant to Chapter 4506. or a driver's license issued pursuant to Chapter 4507. of the Revised Code, the operation of the vehicle did not constitute willful or wanton misconduct, and the operation complies with the precautions of section 4511.03 of the Revised Code.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in sections 3314.07 and 3746.24 of the Revised Code, political subdivisions are liable for injury, death, or loss to person or property caused by the negligent performance of acts by their employees with respect to proprietary functions of the political subdivisions.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in section 3746.24 of the Revised Code, political subdivisions are liable for injury, death, or loss to person or property caused by their negligent failure to keep public roads in repair and other negligent failure to remove obstructions from public roads, except that it is a full defense to that liability, when a bridge within a municipal corporation is involved, that the municipal corporation does not have the responsibility for maintaining or inspecting the bridge.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in section 3746.24 of the Revised Code, political subdivisions are liable for injury, death, or loss to person or property that is caused by the negligence of their employees and that occurs within or on the grounds of, and is due to physical defects within or on the grounds of, buildings that are used in connection with the performance of a governmental function, including, but not

limited to, office buildings and courthouses, but not including 482  
jails, places of juvenile detention, workhouses, or any other 483  
detention facility, as defined in section 2921.01 of the Revised 484  
Code. 485

(5) In addition to the circumstances described in 486  
divisions (B) (1) to (4) of this section, a political subdivision 487  
is liable for injury, death, or loss to person or property when 488  
civil liability is expressly imposed upon the political 489  
subdivision by a section of the Revised Code, including, but not 490  
limited to, sections 2743.02, 2744.022, and 5591.37 of the 491  
Revised Code. Civil liability shall not be construed to exist 492  
under another section of the Revised Code merely because that 493  
section imposes a responsibility or mandatory duty upon a 494  
political subdivision, because that section provides for a 495  
criminal penalty, because of a general authorization in that 496  
section that a political subdivision may sue and be sued, or 497  
because that section uses the term "shall" in a provision 498  
pertaining to a political subdivision. 499

(C) An order that denies a political subdivision or an 500  
employee of a political subdivision the benefit of an alleged 501  
immunity from liability as provided in this chapter or any other 502  
provision of the law is a final order. 503

**Sec. 2744.021.** (A) A person has the right to lawfully 504  
record any incident involving a law enforcement officer and to 505  
maintain custody and control of that recording and the device 506  
used to record the recording. A law enforcement officer shall 507  
not seize a recording or recording device without consent, 508  
without a search warrant or subpoena, or without a lawful 509  
exception to the warrant or subpoena requirement. 510

(B) (1) If a law enforcement officer seeks to obtain from a 511

person a device used to record an incident involving a peace 512  
officer in order to access the recording as possible evidence in 513  
an investigation, the law enforcement officer shall do all of 514  
the following: 515

(a) Advise the person of the law enforcement officer's 516  
name, badge number or other identifying number, and the 517  
officer's employing law enforcement agency; 518

(b) Identify the lawful reason for which the information 519  
is requested; 520

(c) If practicable under the circumstances, inquire 521  
whether the person will voluntarily provide the law enforcement 522  
officer with a copy of the specific recording that is relevant 523  
to the investigation either by voluntarily providing the device 524  
to the law enforcement officer or immediately electronically 525  
transferring the information to the law enforcement officer or 526  
the officer's employing law enforcement agency. If the person 527  
immediately electronically transfers the information to the law 528  
enforcement officer or the officer's employing law enforcement 529  
agency, the person shall retain possession of the device, the 530  
recording, and all personal nonevidentiary private information 531  
and recordings contained in the device. 532

(2) (a) If the person consents voluntarily to the transfer 533  
of the device to the law enforcement officer, the law 534  
enforcement officer and the officer's employing law enforcement 535  
agency shall limit any search of the device to a search for the 536  
recording that is relevant to the investigation. The law 537  
enforcement officer or the officer's employing law enforcement 538  
agency shall return the device to the person upon the person's 539  
request with all convenient speed. 540

(b) If the person consents to an electronic transfer of 541  
the recording, the electronic transfer shall take place as soon 542  
as possible and without unnecessary delay. 543

(3) In circumstances when the immediate electronic 544  
transfer of the recording is not practicable, or when the person 545  
voluntarily consents to the electronic transfer of the 546  
evidentiary information or to the seizure of the device after 547  
having withheld voluntary consent, the law enforcement officer 548  
may arrange for the transfer or delivery of the information or 549  
device to the law enforcement officer or the officer's employing 550  
law enforcement agency by an alternative means consistent with 551  
any policies and procedures of the law enforcement agency. 552

(C) Notwithstanding division (B) of this section, a law 553  
enforcement officer has the authority to temporarily seize and 554  
maintain control over a device that was used to record an 555  
incident involving a law enforcement officer when exigent 556  
circumstances exist that the law enforcement officer believes 557  
that the seizure of the device is necessary to save a life or 558  
when the law enforcement officer has a reasonable, articulable, 559  
good-faith belief that the seizure of the device is necessary to 560  
prevent the destruction of the evidentiary recording while a 561  
search warrant or subpoena for the recording is obtained. The 562  
law enforcement officer or the officer's employing law 563  
enforcement agency shall not maintain control over the device to 564  
obtain a search warrant or subpoena for the recording for longer 565  
than seventy-two hours after the device is seized. 566

(D) A person has a right of recovery against a law 567  
enforcement officer's employing law enforcement agency under 568  
section 2744.022 of the Revised Code if a law enforcement 569  
officer violates any provision of this section. 570

(E) This section does not apply to devices seized incident 571  
to a person's arrest. 572

(F) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow a 573  
person to interfere with a law enforcement officer engaged in 574  
the lawful performance of the officer's duties. 575

(G) As used in the section, "law enforcement officer" 576  
means a sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, police officer of a 577  
township or joint police district, marshal, deputy marshal, or 578  
municipal police officer. 579

**Sec. 2744.022.** (A) Notwithstanding any other remedies, a 580  
person has a right of recovery against a law enforcement 581  
officer's employing law enforcement agency if a person lawfully 582  
records or attempts to record an incident involving a law 583  
enforcement officer and the officer does any of the following: 584

(1) Unlawfully destroys or damages the recording or the 585  
recording device; 586

(2) Seizes the recording or recording device without 587  
permission, without lawful order of the court, or without other 588  
lawful grounds to seize the recording or recording device; 589

(3) Intentionally interferes with the person's lawful 590  
attempt to record the incident; 591

(4) Retaliates against the person for recording or 592  
attempting to record the incident; 593

(5) Refuses to return a recording device that contains a 594  
recording of the incident within a reasonable time period and 595  
without legal justification. 596

(B) If a law enforcement officer engages in any of the 597  
conduct described in division (A) of this section, the aggrieved 598

person may submit a written request to the officer's employing 599  
law enforcement agency asking the law enforcement agency to pay 600  
for the damage to the person's property with an affidavit 601  
setting forth the facts of the incident, the damage done to the 602  
person's property, and a verifiable estimate of the replacement 603  
cost for any damaged or destroyed recording device. If a 604  
recording was damaged or destroyed, the person may claim five 605  
hundred dollars as the value of the recording. Upon its receipt 606  
of the request and affidavit, the law enforcement agency shall 607  
have thirty days to either pay the person the amount requested 608  
in the affidavit or issue a denial of the request in writing. 609

(C) (1) If the law enforcement agency denies a person's 610  
request for damages under division (B) of this section and the 611  
person disagrees with the law enforcement agency's denial of the 612  
request, the person may bring a civil action against the law 613  
enforcement officer's employing law enforcement agency for 614  
actual damages, including the replacement value of the device, 615  
the amount of five hundred dollars for any damaged or destroyed 616  
recording, and any costs and fees associated with the filing of 617  
the civil action. The court may order punitive damages of up to 618  
fifteen thousand dollars and award attorney fees to the claimant 619  
if the court finds that the law enforcement agency's denial of 620  
the claimant's request for damages under division (B) of this 621  
section was made in bad faith. 622

(2) If the court finds that a civil action brought under 623  
division (C) (1) of this section is frivolous and without merit, 624  
the court may award the law enforcement agency its reasonable 625  
costs and attorney fees. 626

(D) Nothing in this section shall prevent a prosecutor 627  
from investigating and prosecuting criminal activity committed 628

by a law enforcement officer that is related to the incident, 629  
including, but not limited to, a violation of section 2921.12 of 630  
the Revised Code. 631

(E) As used in this section: 632

(1) "Retaliate" means threatening or harassing a person 633  
who recorded or attempted to record an incident involving a law 634  
enforcement officer, or purposely harming or injuring the person 635  
or the person's property, as retaliation or retribution against 636  
the person. 637

(2) "Prosecutor" has the same meaning as in section 638  
2935.01 of the Revised Code. 639

**Sec. 2744.03.** (A) In a civil action brought against a 640  
political subdivision or an employee of a political subdivision 641  
to recover damages for injury, death, or loss to person or 642  
property allegedly caused by any act or omission in connection 643  
with a governmental or proprietary function, the following 644  
defenses or immunities may be asserted to establish 645  
nonliability: 646

(1) The political subdivision is immune from liability if 647  
the employee involved was engaged in the performance of a 648  
judicial, quasi-judicial, prosecutorial, legislative, or quasi- 649  
legislative function. 650

(2) The political subdivision is immune from liability if 651  
the conduct of the employee involved, other than negligent 652  
conduct, that gave rise to the claim of liability was required 653  
by law or authorized by law, or if the conduct of the employee 654  
involved that gave rise to the claim of liability was necessary 655  
or essential to the exercise of powers of the political 656  
subdivision or employee. 657

(3) The political subdivision is immune from liability if 658  
the action or failure to act by the employee involved that gave 659  
rise to the claim of liability was within the discretion of the 660  
employee with respect to policy-making, planning, or enforcement 661  
powers by virtue of the duties and responsibilities of the 662  
office or position of the employee. 663

(4) The political subdivision is immune from liability if 664  
the action or failure to act by the political subdivision or 665  
employee involved that gave rise to the claim of liability 666  
resulted in injury or death to a person who had been convicted 667  
of or pleaded guilty to a criminal offense and who, at the time 668  
of the injury or death, was serving any portion of the person's 669  
sentence by performing community service work for or in the 670  
political subdivision whether pursuant to section 2951.02 of the 671  
Revised Code or otherwise, or resulted in injury or death to a 672  
child who was found to be a delinquent child and who, at the 673  
time of the injury or death, was performing community service or 674  
community work for or in a political subdivision in accordance 675  
with the order of a juvenile court entered pursuant to section 676  
2152.19 or 2152.20 of the Revised Code, and if, at the time of 677  
the person's or child's injury or death, the person or child was 678  
covered for purposes of Chapter 4123. of the Revised Code in 679  
connection with the community service or community work for or 680  
in the political subdivision. 681

(5) The political subdivision is immune from liability if 682  
the injury, death, or loss to person or property resulted from 683  
the exercise of judgment or discretion in determining whether to 684  
acquire, or how to use, equipment, supplies, materials, 685  
personnel, facilities, and other resources unless the judgment 686  
or discretion was exercised with malicious purpose, in bad 687  
faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner. 688



(6) In addition to any immunity or defense referred to in 689  
division (A) (7) of this section and in circumstances not covered 690  
by that division or sections 3314.07 and 3746.24 of the Revised 691  
Code, the employee is immune from liability unless one of the 692  
following applies: 693

(a) The employee's acts or omissions were manifestly 694  
outside the scope of the employee's employment or official 695  
responsibilities; 696

(b) The employee's acts or omissions were with malicious 697  
purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner; 698

(c) Civil liability is expressly imposed upon the employee 699  
by a section of the Revised Code. Civil liability shall not be 700  
construed to exist under another section of the Revised Code 701  
merely because that section imposes a responsibility or 702  
mandatory duty upon an employee, because that section provides 703  
for a criminal penalty, because of a general authorization in 704  
that section that an employee may sue and be sued, or because 705  
the section uses the term "shall" in a provision pertaining to 706  
an employee. 707

(7) The political subdivision, and an employee who is a 708  
county prosecuting attorney, city director of law, village 709  
solicitor, or similar chief legal officer of a political 710  
subdivision, an assistant of any such person, or a judge of a 711  
court of this state is entitled to any defense or immunity 712  
available at common law or established by the Revised Code. 713

(B) Any immunity or defense conferred upon, or referred to 714  
in connection with, an employee by division (A) (6) or (7) of 715  
this section does not affect or limit any liability of a 716  
political subdivision for an act or omission of the employee as 717

provided in section 2744.02 of the Revised Code. 718

(C) Any immunity conferred upon a political subdivision by 719  
division (A) (2) or (3) of this section does not affect or limit 720  
the liability of a political subdivision under section 2744.022 721  
of the Revised Code. 722

**Sec. 2744.04.** (A) An action against a political 723  
subdivision to recover damages for injury, death, or loss to 724  
person or property allegedly caused by any act or omission in 725  
connection with a governmental or proprietary function, whether 726  
brought as an original action, cross-claim, counterclaim, third- 727  
party claim, or claim for subrogation, shall be brought within 728  
two years after the cause of action accrues, or within any 729  
applicable shorter period of time for bringing the action 730  
provided by the Revised Code. The period of limitation contained 731  
in this division shall be tolled pursuant to section 2305.16 of 732  
the Revised Code. This division applies to actions brought 733  
against political subdivisions by all persons, governmental 734  
entities, and the state. 735

(B) ~~In~~ Except as provided in division (C) of this section, 736  
in the complaint filed in a civil action against a political 737  
subdivision or an employee of a political subdivision to recover 738  
damages for injury, death, or loss to person or property 739  
allegedly caused by an act or omission in connection with a 740  
governmental or proprietary function, whether filed in an 741  
original action, cross-claim, counterclaim, third-party claim, 742  
or claim for subrogation, the complainant shall include a demand 743  
for a judgment for the damages that the judge in a nonjury trial 744  
or the jury in a jury trial finds that the complainant is 745  
entitled to be awarded, but shall not specify in that demand any 746  
monetary amount for damages sought. 747

(C) In the complaint filed in a civil action brought under 748  
section 2744.022 of the Revised Code, the complainant's demand 749  
for a judgment for damages may include a statement of the 750  
replacement value of the recording device and may specify a 751  
demand for judgment in the amount of five hundred dollars for 752  
any damaged or destroyed recording. 753

**Sec. 2744.05.** ~~Notwithstanding~~ (A) Except as provided by 754  
division (B) of this section, notwithstanding any other 755  
provisions of the Revised Code or rules of a court to the 756  
contrary, in an action against a political subdivision to 757  
recover damages for injury, death, or loss to person or property 758  
caused by an act or omission in connection with a governmental 759  
or proprietary function: 760

~~(A) (1)~~ (1) Punitive or exemplary damages shall not be 761  
awarded. 762

~~(B) (1)~~ (2) (a) If a claimant receives or is entitled to 763  
receive benefits for injuries or loss allegedly incurred from a 764  
policy or policies of insurance or any other source, the 765  
benefits shall be disclosed to the court, and the amount of the 766  
benefits shall be deducted from any award against a political 767  
subdivision recovered by that claimant. No insurer or other 768  
person is entitled to bring an action under a subrogation 769  
provision in an insurance or other contract against a political 770  
subdivision with respect to those benefits. 771

The amount of the benefits shall be deducted from an award 772  
against a political subdivision under division ~~(B) (1)~~ (A) (2) (a) 773  
of this section regardless of whether the claimant may be under 774  
an obligation to pay back the benefits upon recovery, in whole 775  
or in part, for the claim. A claimant whose benefits have been 776  
deducted from an award under division ~~(B) (1)~~ (A) (2) (a) of this 777

section is not considered fully compensated and shall not be 778  
required to reimburse a subrogated claim for benefits deducted 779  
from an award pursuant to division ~~(B) (1)~~ (A) (2) (a) of this 780  
section. 781

~~(2)~~ (b) Nothing in division ~~(B) (1)~~ (A) (2) (a) of this 782  
section shall be construed to do either of the following: 783

~~(a)~~ (i) Limit the rights of a beneficiary under a life 784  
insurance policy or the rights of sureties under fidelity or 785  
surety bonds; 786

~~(b)~~ (ii) Prohibit the department of medicaid from 787  
recovering from the political subdivision, pursuant to section 788  
5160.37 of the Revised Code, the cost of medical assistance 789  
provided under a medical assistance program. 790

~~(C) (1)~~ (3) (a) There shall not be any limitation on 791  
compensatory damages that represent the actual loss of the 792  
person who is awarded the damages. However, except in wrongful 793  
death actions brought pursuant to Chapter 2125. of the Revised 794  
Code, damages that arise from the same cause of action, 795  
transaction or occurrence, or series of transactions or 796  
occurrences and that do not represent the actual loss of the 797  
person who is awarded the damages shall not exceed two hundred 798  
fifty thousand dollars in favor of any one person. The 799  
limitation on damages that do not represent the actual loss of 800  
the person who is awarded the damages provided in this division 801  
does not apply to court costs that are awarded to a plaintiff, 802  
or to interest on a judgment rendered in favor of a plaintiff, 803  
in an action against a political subdivision. 804

~~(2)~~ (b) As used in this ~~division~~ section, "the actual loss 805  
of the person who is awarded the damages" includes all of the 806

following: 807

~~(a)~~ (i) All wages, salaries, or other compensation lost by 808  
the person injured as a result of the injury, including wages, 809  
salaries, or other compensation lost as of the date of a 810  
judgment and future expected lost earnings of the person 811  
injured; 812

~~(b)~~ (ii) All expenditures of the person injured or another 813  
person on behalf of the person injured for medical care or 814  
treatment, for rehabilitation services, or for other care, 815  
treatment, services, products, or accommodations that were 816  
necessary because of the injury; 817

~~(c)~~ (iii) All expenditures to be incurred in the future, 818  
as determined by the court, by the person injured or another 819  
person on behalf of the person injured for medical care or 820  
treatment, for rehabilitation services, or for other care, 821  
treatment, services, products, or accommodations that will be 822  
necessary because of the injury; 823

~~(d)~~ (iv) All expenditures of a person whose property was 824  
injured or destroyed or of another person on behalf of the 825  
person whose property was injured or destroyed in order to 826  
repair or replace the property that was injured or destroyed; 827

~~(e)~~ (v) All expenditures of the person injured or of the 828  
person whose property was injured or destroyed or of another 829  
person on behalf of the person injured or of the person whose 830  
property was injured or destroyed in relation to the actual 831  
preparation or presentation of the claim involved; 832

~~(f)~~ (vi) Any other expenditures of the person injured or 833  
of the person whose property was injured or destroyed or of 834  
another person on behalf of the person injured or of the person 835

whose property was injured or destroyed that the court 836  
determines represent an actual loss experienced because of the 837  
personal or property injury or property loss. 838

"The actual loss of the person who is awarded the damages" 839  
does not include any fees paid or owed to an attorney for any 840  
services rendered in relation to a personal or property injury 841  
or property loss, and does not include any damages awarded for 842  
pain and suffering, for the loss of society, consortium, 843  
companionship, care, assistance, attention, protection, advice, 844  
guidance, counsel, instruction, training, or education of the 845  
person injured, for mental anguish, or for any other intangible 846  
loss. 847

(B) Division (A) of this section does not apply to an 848  
action for damages brought under division (C) of section 849  
2744.022 of the Revised Code. 850

**Section 2.** That existing sections 2315.18, 2323.43, 851  
2744.02, 2744.03, 2744.04, and 2744.05 of the Revised Code are 852  
hereby repealed. 853