As Passed by the Senate

129th General Assembly Regular Session 2011-2012

Sub. H. B. No. 606

Representative Hagan, R.

Cosponsors: Representatives Gerberry, Bubp, Blair, Blessing, Combs, DeVitis, Hottinger, Huffman, Martin, Murray, Ramos, Stebelton, Yuko
Speaker Batchelder
Senators Schiavoni, Seitz

ABILL

То	amend sections 1901.08, 1905.01, 4511.204, and	1
	4511.205 of the Revised Code to abolish a	2
	judgeship of the Youngstown Municipal Court; to	3
	increase from more than 100 to more than 200 the	4
	population necessary for a municipal corporation	5
	to have a mayor's court unless the municipal	6
	corporation is located entirely on an island in	7
	Lake Erie; and to provide that a conviction or	8
	guilty plea of the offense of driving a vehicle	9
	while writing, sending, or reading a text-based	10
	communication on a handheld electronic wireless	11
	communications device and a conviction or guilty	12
	plea of a substantially equivalent municipal	13
	ordinance for the same conduct are allied offenses	14
	of similar import and that an adjudication for the	15
	offense of a person who is less than 18 years of	16
	age from using, in any manner, an electronic	17
	wireless communications device while driving and	18
	an adjudication of a substantially equivalent	19
	municipal ordinance for the same conduct are	20

Sub. H. B. No. 606 As Passed by the Senate	Page 2
allied offenses of similar import.	21
BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:	
Section 1. That sections 1901.08, 1905.01, 4511.204, and 4511.205 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:	22
Sec. 1901.08. The number of, and the time for election of,	24
judges of the following municipal courts and the beginning of their terms shall be as follows:	25 26
In the Akron municipal court, two full-time judges shall be elected in 1951, two full-time judges shall be elected in 1953, one full-time judge shall be elected in 1967, and one full-time judge shall be elected in 1975.	27 28 29 30
In the Alliance municipal court, one full-time judge shall be elected in 1953.	31 32
In the Ashland municipal court, one full-time judge shall be elected in 1951.	33 34
In the Ashtabula municipal court, one full-time judge shall be elected in 1953.	35 36
In the Athens county municipal court, one full-time judge shall be elected in 1967.	37 38
In the Auglaize county municipal court, one full-time judge shall be elected in 1975.	39 40
In the Avon Lake municipal court, one part-time judge shall be elected in 1957.	41 42
In the Barberton municipal court, one full-time judge shall be elected in 1969, and one full-time judge shall be elected in 1971.	43 44 45

In the Bedford municipal court, one full-time judge shall be

Page 3

Page 4

Page 10

be abolished on January 1, 2016. Beginning July 1, 2010, the	286
part-time judge of the Montgomery county county that existed	287
before that date whose term commenced on January 2, 2005, shall	288
serve as a full-time judge of the Montgomery county municipal	289
court until January 1, 2012.	290

One judge shall be elected in 2013 to a full-time judgeship 291 for a term to begin on January 2, 2014. Beginning July 1, 2010, 292 the part-time judge of the Montgomery county county court that 293 existed before that date whose term commenced on January 2, 2007, 294 shall serve as a full-time judge of the Montgomery county 295 municipal court until January 1, 2014.

One judge shall be elected in 2013 to a judgeship for a term 297 to begin on January 1, 2014. If no other judgeship of the court 298 becomes vacant and is abolished by January 1, 2014, this judgeship 299 shall be a part-time judgeship. When one or more of the other 300 judgeships of the court becomes vacant and is abolished after July 301 1, 2010, this judgeship shall become a full-time judgeship. 302 Beginning July 1, 2010, the part-time judge of the Montgomery 303 county county that existed before that date whose term 304 commenced on January 1, 2007, shall serve as this judge of the 305 Montgomery county municipal court until December 31, 2013. 306

If any one of the judgeships of the court becomes vacant 307 before December 31, 2021, that judgeship is abolished on the date 308 that it becomes vacant, and the other judges of the court shall be 309 or serve as full-time judges. The abolishment of judgeships for 310 the Montgomery county municipal court shall cease when the court 311 has two full-time judgeships.

In the Morrow county municipal court, one full-time judge 313 shall be elected in 2005. Beginning January 1, 2003, the part-time 314 judge of the Morrow county county court that existed prior to that 315 date shall serve as the full-time judge of the Morrow county 316 municipal court until December 31, 2005.

Page 12

Page 13

Sub. H. B. No. 606

As Passed by the Senate

Page 14

Page 15

provided in divisions (B), (C), and (E) of this section and

subject to the limitation contained in section 1905.03 and the

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limitation contained in section 1905.031 of the Revised Code, to	468
hear and determine any prosecution for the violation of an	469
ordinance of the municipal corporation, to hear and determine any	470
case involving a violation of a vehicle parking or standing	471
ordinance of the municipal corporation unless the violation is	472
required to be handled by a parking violations bureau or joint	473
parking violations bureau pursuant to Chapter 4521. of the Revised	474
Code, and to hear and determine all criminal causes involving any	475
moving traffic violation occurring on a state highway located	476
within the boundaries of the municipal corporation, subject to the	477
limitations of sections 2937.08 and 2938.04 of the Revised Code.	478

(B)(1) In Georgetown in Brown county, in Mount Gilead in 479 Morrow county, in any municipal corporation located entirely on an 480 island in Lake Erie, and in all other municipal corporations 481 having a population of more than one two hundred, other than 482 Batavia in Clermont county, not being the site of a municipal 483 court nor a place where a judge of a court listed in division (A) 484 of this section sits as required pursuant to section 1901.021 of 485 the Revised Code or by designation of the judges pursuant to 486 section 1901.021 of the Revised Code, the mayor of the municipal 487 corporation has jurisdiction, subject to the limitation contained 488 in section 1905.03 of the Revised Code, to hear and determine 489 prosecutions involving a violation of an ordinance of the 490 municipal corporation relating to operating a vehicle while under 491 the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of 492 them or relating to operating a vehicle with a prohibited 493 concentration of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a metabolite 494 of a controlled substance in the whole blood, blood serum or 495 plasma, breath, or urine, and to hear and determine criminal 496 causes involving a violation of section 4511.19 of the Revised 497 Code that occur on a state highway located within the boundaries 498 of the municipal corporation, subject to the limitations of 499

sections 2937.08 and 2938.04 of the Revised Code, only if the	500
person charged with the violation, within six years of the date of	501
the violation charged, has not been convicted of or pleaded guilty	502
to any of the following:	503
(a) A violation of an ordinance of any municipal corporation	504
relating to operating a vehicle while under the influence of	505
alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them or relating to	506
operating a vehicle with a prohibited concentration of alcohol, a	507
controlled substance, or a metabolite of a controlled substance in	508
the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, or urine;	509
(b) A violation of section 4511.19 of the Revised Code;	510
(c) A violation of any ordinance of any municipal corporation	511
or of any section of the Revised Code that regulates the operation	512
of vehicles, streetcars, and trackless trolleys upon the highways	513
or streets, to which all of the following apply:	514
(i) The person, in the case in which the conviction was	515
obtained or the plea of guilty was entered, had been charged with	516
a violation of an ordinance of a type described in division	517
(B)(1)(a) of this section, or with a violation of section 4511.19	518
of the Revised Code;	519
(ii) The charge of the violation described in division	520
(B)(1)(c)(i) of this section was dismissed or reduced;	521
(iii) The violation of which the person was convicted or to	522
which the person pleaded guilty arose out of the same facts and	523
circumstances and the same act as did the charge that was	524
dismissed or reduced.	525
(d) A violation of a statute of the United States or of any	526
other state or a municipal ordinance of a municipal corporation	527
located in any other state that is substantially similar to	528
section 4511.19 of the Revised Code.	529

(2) The mayor of a municipal corporation does not have	530
jurisdiction to hear and determine any prosecution or criminal	531
cause involving a violation described in division (B)(1)(a) or (b)	532
of this section, regardless of where the violation occurred, if	533
the person charged with the violation, within six years of the	534
violation charged, has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any	535
violation listed in division (B)(1)(a), (b), (c), or (d) of this	536
section.	537

If the mayor of a municipal corporation, in hearing a 538 prosecution involving a violation of an ordinance of the municipal 539 corporation the mayor serves relating to operating a vehicle while 540 under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination 541 of them or relating to operating a vehicle with a prohibited 542 concentration of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a metabolite 543 of a controlled substance in the whole blood, blood serum or 544 plasma, breath, or urine, or in hearing a criminal cause involving 545 a violation of section 4511.19 of the Revised Code, determines 546 that the person charged, within six years of the violation 547 charged, has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any violation 548 listed in division (B)(1)(a), (b), (c), or (d) of this section, 549 the mayor immediately shall transfer the case to the county court 550 or municipal court with jurisdiction over the violation charged, 551 in accordance with section 1905.032 of the Revised Code. 552

(C)(1) In Georgetown in Brown county, in Mount Gilead in 553 Morrow county, in any municipal corporation located entirely on an 554 island in Lake Erie, and in all other municipal corporations 555 having a population of more than one two hundred, other than 556 Batavia in Clermont county, not being the site of a municipal 557 court and not being a place where a judge of a court listed in 558 division (A) of this section sits as required pursuant to section 559 1901.021 of the Revised Code or by designation of the judges 560 pursuant to section 1901.021 of the Revised Code, the mayor of the 561

municipal corporation, subject to sections 1901.031, 2937.08, and	562
2938.04 of the Revised Code, has jurisdiction to hear and	563
determine prosecutions involving a violation of a municipal	564
ordinance that is substantially equivalent to division (A) of	565
section 4510.14 or section 4510.16 of the Revised Code and to hear	566
and determine criminal causes that involve a moving traffic	567
violation, that involve a violation of division (A) of section	568
4510.14 or section 4510.16 of the Revised Code, and that occur on	569
a state highway located within the boundaries of the municipal	570
corporation only if all of the following apply regarding the	571
violation and the person charged:	572

- (a) Regarding a violation of section 4510.16 of the Revised 573

 Code or a violation of a municipal ordinance that is substantially 574

 equivalent to that division, the person charged with the 575

 violation, within six years of the date of the violation charged, 576

 has not been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any of the 577

 following: 578
 - (i) A violation of section 4510.16 of the Revised Code; 579
- (ii) A violation of a municipal ordinance that is580substantially equivalent to section 4510.16 of the Revised Code;581
- (iii) A violation of any municipal ordinance or section of 582 the Revised Code that regulates the operation of vehicles, 583 streetcars, and trackless trolleys upon the highways or streets, 584 in a case in which, after a charge against the person of a 585 violation of a type described in division (C)(1)(a)(i) or (ii) of 586 this section was dismissed or reduced, the person is convicted of 587 or pleads guilty to a violation that arose out of the same facts 588 and circumstances and the same act as did the charge that was 589 dismissed or reduced. 590
- (b) Regarding a violation of division (A) of section 4510.14 591 of the Revised Code or a violation of a municipal ordinance that 592

is substantially equivalent to that division, the person charged	593
with the violation, within six years of the date of the violation	594
charged, has not been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any of the	595
following:	596
(i) A violation of division (A) of section 4510.14 of the	597
Revised Code;	598
(ii) A violation of a municipal ordinance that is	599
substantially equivalent to division (A) of section 4510.14 of the	600
Revised Code;	601
(iii) A violation of any municipal ordinance or section of	602
the Revised Code that regulates the operation of vehicles,	603
streetcars, and trackless trolleys upon the highways or streets in	604
a case in which, after a charge against the person of a violation	605
of a type described in division (C)(1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this	606
section was dismissed or reduced, the person is convicted of or	607
pleads guilty to a violation that arose out of the same facts and	608
circumstances and the same act as did the charge that was	609
dismissed or reduced.	610
(2) The mayor of a municipal corporation does not have	611
jurisdiction to hear and determine any prosecution or criminal	612
cause involving a violation described in division (C)(1)(a)(i) or	613
(ii) of this section if the person charged with the violation,	614
within six years of the violation charged, has been convicted of	615
or pleaded guilty to any violation listed in division	616
(C)(1)(a)(i), (ii) , or (iii) of this section and does not have	617
jurisdiction to hear and determine any prosecution or criminal	618
cause involving a violation described in division (C)(1)(b)(i) or	619
(ii) of this section if the person charged with the violation,	620
within six years of the violation charged, has been convicted of	621
or pleaded guilty to any violation listed in division	622

(C)(1)(b)(i), (ii), or (iii) of this section.

of the violation;

(3) If the mayor of a municipal corporation, in hearing a	624
prosecution involving a violation of an ordinance of the municipal	625
corporation the mayor serves that is substantially equivalent to	626
division (A) of section 4510.14 or section 4510.16 of the Revised	627
Code or a violation of division (A) of section 4510.14 or section	628
4510.16 of the Revised Code, determines that, under division	629
(C)(2) of this section, mayors do not have jurisdiction of the	630
prosecution, the mayor immediately shall transfer the case to the	631
county court or municipal court with jurisdiction over the	632
violation in accordance with section 1905.032 of the Revised Code.	633
(D) If the mayor of a municipal corporation has jurisdiction	634
pursuant to division (B)(1) of this section to hear and determine	635
a prosecution or criminal cause involving a violation described in	636
division (B)(1)(a) or (b) of this section, the authority of the	637
mayor to hear or determine the prosecution or cause is subject to	638
the limitation contained in division (C) of section 1905.03 of the	639
Revised Code. If the mayor of a municipal corporation has	640
jurisdiction pursuant to division (A) or (C) of this section to	641
hear and determine a prosecution or criminal cause involving a	642
violation other than a violation described in division (B)(1)(a)	643
or (b) of this section, the authority of the mayor to hear or	644
determine the prosecution or cause is subject to the limitation	645
contained in division (C) of section 1905.031 of the Revised Code.	646
(E)(1) The mayor of a municipal corporation does not have	647
jurisdiction to hear and determine any prosecution or criminal	648
cause involving any of the following:	649
(a) A violation of section 2919.25 or 2919.27 of the Revised	650
Code;	651
(b) A violation of section 2903.11, 2903.12, 2903.13,	652
2903.211, or 2911.211 of the Revised Code that involves a person	653
who was a family or household member of the defendant at the time	654

(c) A violation of a municipal ordinance that is	656
substantially equivalent to an offense described in division	657
(E)(1)(a) or (b) of this section and that involves a person who	658
was a family or household member of the defendant at the time of	659
the violation.	660
(2) The mayor of a municipal corporation does not have	661
jurisdiction to hear and determine a motion filed pursuant to	662
section 2919.26 of the Revised Code or filed pursuant to a	663
municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to that	664
section or to issue a protection order pursuant to that section or	665
a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.	666
(3) As used in this section, "family or household member" has	667
the same meaning as in section 2919.25 of the Revised Code.	668
(F) In keeping a docket and files, the mayor, and a mayor's	669
court magistrate appointed under section 1905.05 of the Revised	670
Code, shall be governed by the laws pertaining to county courts.	671
Sec. 4511.204. (A) No person shall drive a motor vehicle,	672
trackless trolley, or streetcar on any street, highway, or	673
property open to the public for vehicular traffic while using a	674
handheld electronic wireless communications device to write, send,	675
or read a text-based communication.	676
(B) Division (A) of this section does not apply to any of the	677
following:	678
(1) A person using a handheld electronic wireless	679
communications device in that manner for emergency purposes,	680
including an emergency contact with a law enforcement agency,	681
hospital or health care provider, fire department, or other	682
similar emergency agency or entity;	683
(2) A person driving a public safety vehicle who uses a	684

handheld electronic wireless communications device in that manner

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hands-free device feature or function of the vehicle.

of that nature or causing the arrest of or commencing a

(C) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no

law enforcement officer shall cause an operator of an automobile

the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of division

being operated on any street or highway to stop the automobile for

(A) of this section has been or is being committed or for the sole

purpose of issuing a ticket, citation, or summons for a violation

prosecution of a person for a violation of that nature, and no law	716
enforcement officer shall view the interior or visually inspect	717
any automobile being operated on any street or highway for the	718
sole purpose of determining whether a violation of that nature has	719
been or is being committed.	720
(D) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is guilty	721
of a minor misdemeanor.	722
(E) This section shall not be construed as invalidating,	723
preempting, or superseding a substantially equivalent municipal	724
ordinance that prescribes penalties for violations of that	725
ordinance that are greater than the penalties prescribed in this	726
section for violations of this section.	727
(F) A prosecution for a violation of this section does not	728
preclude a prosecution for a violation of a substantially	729
equivalent municipal ordinance based on the same conduct. However,	730
if an offender is convicted of or pleads quilty to a violation of	731
this section and is also convicted of or pleads quilty to a	732
violation of a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance based	733
on the same conduct, the two offenses are allied offenses of	734
similar import under section 2941.25 of the Revised Code.	735
(G) As used in this section:	736
(1) "Electronic wireless communications device" includes any	737
of the following:	738
(a) A wireless telephone;	739
(b) A text-messaging device;	740
(c) A personal digital assistant;	741
(d) A computer, including a laptop computer and a computer	742
tablet;	743
(e) Any other substantially similar wireless device that is	744
designed or used to communicate text.	745

(2) "Voice-operated or hands-free device" means a device that	746
allows the user to vocally compose or send, or to listen to a	747
text-based communication without the use of either hand except to	748
activate or deactivate a feature or function.	749
(3) "Write, send, or read a text-based communication" means	750
to manually write or send, or read a text-based communication	751
using an electronic wireless communications device, including	752
manually writing or sending, or reading communications referred to	753
as text messages, instant messages, or electronic mail.	754
Sec. 4511.205. (A) No holder of a temporary instruction	755
permit who has not attained the age of eighteen years and no	756
holder of a probationary driver's license shall drive a motor	757
vehicle on any street, highway, or property used by the public for	758
purposes of vehicular traffic or parking while using in any manner	759
an electronic wireless communications device.	760
(B) Division (A) of this section does not apply to either of	761
the following:	762
(1) A person using an electronic wireless communications	763
device for emergency purposes, including an emergency contact with	764
a law enforcement agency, hospital or health care provider, fire	765
department, or other similar emergency agency or entity;	766
(2) A person using an electronic wireless communications	767
device whose motor vehicle is in a stationary position and the	768
motor vehicle is outside a lane of travel;	769
(3) A person using a navigation device in a voice-operated or	770
hands-free manner who does not manipulate the device while	771
driving.	772
(C)(1) Except as provided in division $(C)(2)$ of this section,	773
whoever violates division (A) of this section shall be fined one	774
hundred fifty dollars. In addition, the court shall impose a class	775

Section 2. That existing sections 1901.08, 1905.01, 4511.204, 804 and 4511.205 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 805

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or written word.

Section 3. The judgeship of the Youngstown Municipal Court	806
that is abolished by this act is the judgeship whose term began on	807
January 1, 2008. The term of the judge elected in 2013 to succeed	808
the judge whose term began on January 2, 2008, shall begin on	809
January 1, 2014.	810

Section 4. (A) Upon the effective date of this act, within 811 each municipal corporation with a population of two hundred or 812 less, except for any municipal corporation located entirely on an 813 island in Lake Erie, the jurisdiction of the mayor in all civil 814 and criminal causes that otherwise was granted under section 815 1905.01 of the Revised Code prior to the effective date of this 816 act terminates. Upon the effective date of this act, all 817 prosecutions, cases, criminal causes, and other proceedings then 818 pending in a mayor's court of a municipal corporation that has a 819 population of two hundred or less and is not located entirely on 820 an island in Lake Erie shall be transferred to and proceed in the 821 municipal court, county court, or court of common pleas with 822 jurisdiction over the alleged violation that is the basis of the 823 prosecution, case, cause, or proceeding, as if the prosecution, 824 case, cause, or proceeding originally had been instituted in the 825 municipal court, county court, or court of common pleas. 826

(B) Upon the transfer of a prosecution, case, criminal cause, 827 or other proceeding to a municipal court, county court, or court 828 of common pleas under division (A) of this section, the mayor of 829 the municipal corporation before whom the prosecution, case, 830 cause, or proceeding was pending upon the effective date of this 831 act shall transfer to the municipal court, county court, or court 832 of common pleas the pleadings, orders, entries, dockets, bonds, 833 papers, records, books, exhibits, files, moneys, property, and 834 persons that belong to, are in the possession of, or were subject 835 to the jurisdiction of the mayor and that pertain to the 836 transferred prosecution, case, cause, or proceeding. 837