



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, INC.

SB 383

Written Testimony

Chief Bruce Pijanowski, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee. I am Bruce Pijanowski, the Chief of Police for the City of Delaware representing the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to the proposed modifications to the self-defense law contained in SB 383.

OACP is well aware of and committed to the national discussion of the need to de-escalate, and to resort to lethal force as a last resort. It is incomprehensible to us, therefore, that our state legislature is going to consider allowing private citizens to engage in the use of deadly force for protection of self and property when that force can be avoided by retreating (translation: de-escalating). The issues that confront law enforcement can and do confront private citizens. Contact with persons with mental health disorders and addictions will continue to drive behaviors that impact both private citizens and law enforcement professionals. If we are to accept as a profession that we must do better in approaching these cases how does it make sense to not expect de-escalation from private citizens when that is an option? This legislation does not propose any solution to the causative issues that drive use of force and violent crimes in Ohio.

If, as a state, we are serious about our approaches to mental health, addiction and police use of force then we need to support real solutions to those issues. Nowhere in this or any firearms legislation is there a dollar for mental health or addiction services. Both are underfunded, overlooked and often criticized when things go wrong.

The Law Enforcement Assistance fund has not been funded for 3 years, and again is unfunded next year. Every agency in the State of Ohio received a memo that there is no mandated training in 2021 due to the lack of funding – see attached. The police reform discussion, lack of training dollars, and stand your ground legislation make absolutely no sense when viewed together.

It is time to start thinking about these topics as components of a bigger problem, and act with purpose and fiscal support. OACP would recommend that this legislation, and any other firearm legislation be dealt with at a time when the discussion is not rushed due to the end of legislative session and when there is an opportunity for a full discussion post-Covid. Anything short of that is simply opportunistic and unhealthy for the State of Ohio.



DAVE YOST
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MEMORANDUM

TO: LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATORS
FROM: DWIGHT A. HOLCOMB - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: NOVEMBER 23, 2020
SUBJECT: CPT HOURS FOR 2021

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section §109.803, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission is required to set a minimum number of hours for continuing professional training (CPT). The minimum number of hours is based upon funding available for reimbursement. At this time no funding is available for 2021. Therefore, the Commission at its November 23, 2020 meeting did not mandate any CPT hours for 2021.

With the current review of law enforcement training in Ohio the state could move forward with mandatory training later this year or in early 2021. If that occurs an updated notice will be sent to you.

Nevertheless, the commission does recommend each agency continue to build toward the 40 hours of annual advanced training for each of its officer and focus on specific topics as previously recommended. Topic recommendations continue to be:

- Legal updates
- Community-police relationships
- Mental health
- De-escalation and crisis intervention
- Refresher training for perishable skills in a reality-based training environment
- Use of Force policy review

Sincerely,

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