

Committees:

Higher Education, *Ranking Member*
Primary & Secondary Education
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Sponsor Testimony – State and Local Government Committee– Dec. 7th, 2022

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 362.

We all carry emotional stress and burdens from our personal lives that can impact our ability to best perform at work, especially so for our first responders.

Emotional Intelligence as defined in House Bill 362 is the ability to identify and manage someone's own emotions as well as emotions of others. This includes having self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management skills.

House Bill 362 aims to provide emotional intelligence training to current and future Ohio Peace Officers that interact with the public to better equip our officers when handling crisis situations. Emotional intelligence training prepares officers to care for themselves which in turn allows for them to better and safely proceed during their time in the field.

We have seen too often police using unreasonable force in our own state and across the country with these actions being attributed to the officer's inability to manage their own emotions in a high stress situation. As a measure to prevent these types of occurrences implementing ongoing and comprehensive EIQ training would benefit not only the officers, but the Ohioans that they have sworn to protect and serve.

House Bill 362 will require the Attorney General to adopt rules governing the training of peace officers on emotional intelligence. Further it would require the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commissions to include training on emotion intelligence in its training program.

Emotional Intelligence (EIQ) has become one of the most sought out behavioral skills across many organizations. It allows for an individuals to develop resiliency to stress and adversity. Furthermore, studies confirm that almost 80% of our ability to function optimally in our roles is determined by our levels of emotional intelligence. While many people may believe they have significant EIQ skills, everyone can improve these skills through training and reinforcement

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State and Local Government Committee, I thank you for your time, and will be happy to answer any questions.