

Columbus Office:

77 S. High Street, 10th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Contact Information:

Office: 614-466-5141
FAX: 614-719-6995
Email: rep56@ohiohouse.gov



I would like to thank Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, ranking member Kelly and the members of the State and Local Government Committee for hearing my testimony today.

Representative Blackshear will unfortunately not be able to give testimony with me today.

HB 130 by itself grants police departments the power to fill vacant positions in civil service without an exam, if the department can present evidence that the competitive component of exams is deemed unnecessary, and the applicant has exceptional qualifications. This bill aligns the same opportunity for statutory cities as charter cities in hiring law enforcement.

I believe the civil service process helps determine qualified candidates and still holds value by curbing nepotism, but has proven to be impractical when regarding lateral transfers. Currently, under the civil service process, when a department seeks to hire an officer, time is needed to not only post the position but also to schedule a test and wait for results. In Ohio, Police Departments located in statutory cities must go through this process, however, a charter city can immediately hire a qualified officer and avoid the civil service process. Filling positions with veteran officers avoids excess time and money and allows for a trained officer to immediately make an impact.

Sub HB 113, which was accepted by this committee in March of this year, combined both HB 130 and HB 113 (allow municipal police chiefs to conduct officer training schools), to work more effectively, and in the 135th GA we seek to resubmit Sub HB 113 for consideration. The combination of these two bills makes the police force work more effectively for community members, and gets well-trained officers out into the field.

I would again like to thank Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, ranking member Kelly and the members of the State and Local Government Committee for hearing my testimony today.