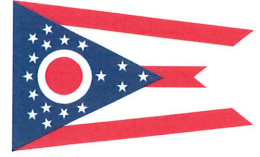




FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OF OHIO, INC.

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Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

March 16, 2022

Testimony on House Bill 206

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Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee,

I am Mike Weinman, a retired Columbus police officer who now serves as director of government affairs for the FOP. Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of the 24,000 active and retired FOP members from every corner of Ohio to urge you to support HB 206.

HB 206 permits a township police officer who serves a population between 5,000 and 50,000 the ability to enforce specified traffic offenses on interstate highways within the township if authorized by that township's board of trustees.

Consider that 70 percent of all serious crimes involve a motor vehicle in the United States. There are countless examples of a seemingly minor traffic offense netting murderers, human traffickers, drug smugglers, and more. One of the traffic offenses a township officer will be able to enforce when this bill goes into effect is O.R.C 4511.35/Operating a vehicle on the wrong side of a divided highway or through the dividing space or barrier. Can you imagine witnessing a car hurtling up an interstate highway on the wrong side, and the closest police officer in the jurisdiction is prohibited from taking enforcement action?

Changing the law will affect a small number of townships with a population between 5001 to 50,000 and have an interstate highway within their borders with at least one on and off- ramp. The township trustees must give the agency approval, which can be revoked. And while I wrote tickets using the Columbus City Code, the township officers will be writing their tickets under the Ohio Revised Code.

Township police officers are fully certified peace officers in the State of Ohio. They should not have to rely on others to keep their community safe. Therefore, the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio respectfully asks that you favorably report HB 206.