



**Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
House Bill 241 – Proponent Testimony
House Homeland Security Committee**

Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Homeland Security Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide written proponent testimony today on HB 241.

My name is Heinz von Eckartsberg. I am the retired Chief of Police in Dublin, Ohio and most recently, the assistant superintendent of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. I am representing the membership of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police.

The Chiefs Association applauds the efforts of Representatives Kevin Miller and Joseph Miller for sponsoring this bill in an effort to provide a more level playing field for statutory cities in Ohio to hire qualified police officers. As you know, in Ohio charter cities have the ability to conduct lateral hiring for police officers without having to go through the process of posting and testing that is required of statutory cities. HB 241 would grant police departments in statutory cities 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 will greatly expedite the ability of these cities to hire qualified police officers who can more quickly provide an impact and benefit to the city.

The current climate in law enforcement in the US and in Ohio specifically has created a situation where recruiting for police officers has become increasingly difficult, resulting in many vacancies in agencies large and small. Passing this bill will allow a more streamlined process for cities, when qualified candidates are available, that will go a long way towards putting qualified police officers to work quickly and with less initial expense. We urge the committee to vote favorably on HB 241 and send it to the House floor for a vote.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share testimony on behalf of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience if you have any questions or concerns we can address.