



**Representative Phil Plummer**  
Ohio's 39<sup>th</sup> District

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 56.

The purpose of this Bill is to help restore law and order back on our roadways. It will hold violators accountable for reckless behavior and increase penalties for individuals who flee from the police. Those who willfully elude or flee the police will now be penalized with a 4<sup>th</sup> degree felony and those who have committed a felony immediately before fleeing from police will be penalized with an increase to a third-degree felony. As far as regulations regarding our officers and their ability to pursue a criminal we require a law enforcement entity to consider pursuit policy standards and best practice recommendations which have been set into place by the Ohio Collaborative Community- Police Advisory Board or a similar entity. This bill is going to make our roadways a safer place for the citizens of Ohio and deter criminals from participating in stunt driving and street takeover events on our public roads, streets, or highways.

**Fleeing Law Enforcement**

- Increases the penalty from willfully eluding or fleeing a police officer using a motor vehicle from a first-degree misdemeanor to a fourth-degree felony.
- Relatedly, increases the penalty from a fourth-degree felony to a third degree felony if the flight is immediately after the commission of a felony.

Also relatedly, increases the possible prison term for circumstances when the flight:

- Was the proximate cause of serious physical harm to persons or property; or
- Caused a substantial risk of serious physical harm to persons or property.

**Policy For Pursuit**

- Requires a law enforcement entity to consider pursuit policy standards and best practice recommendations from the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board or a similar law enforcement accrediting entity.

**Penalties**

The bill applies the current law penalties for street racing on a public road, street, or highway to stunt driving and street takeover and to street racing on private property open to the public. Those penalties are a first-degree misdemeanor, a 30-day to three-year driver's license suspension, and six points assessed on the offender's driver's license. The bill also authorizes possible seizure and forfeiture of the vehicle used to commit the offenses of street racing, stunt driving, or street takeover under the Forfeiture Laws.