

April 22, 2024

Hon. Nathan H. Manning and Members of the Committee  
Committee on Judiciary  
Ohio State Senate

RE: HB 56 – Police Pursuits and Stunt Driving

Dear Chair Manning and Members of the Committee:

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) is a national, century-old, not-for-profit organization supported by approximately 1,200 property and casualty insurance companies, including many who write business in Ohio. Working hand-in-hand with our member companies and Ohio state and local law enforcement, we help to detect, prevent, and deter insurance crimes.

When confronted with flashing blue and red lights in their rear-view mirror law abiding citizens quickly pull over. However, those willing to flee police are generally doing so to avoid apprehension for a vast array of criminal activity, including insurance crimes such as vehicle theft, catalytic converter theft, burglary, arson, cargo theft, and more. Worse, their ability to continue to commit criminal activities is predicated on their ability to avoid apprehension. House Bill 56 rightfully seeks to increase penalties for fleeing police while requiring the implementation of common-sense vehicle pursuit guidelines.

The Bill also creates the first-degree misdemeanor crime of knowingly participating in stunt driving or a street takeover. Such activities include doughnuts, burnouts, passengers riding partially or fully outside the vehicle, and blocking street traffic in order to street race or stunt drive. This dangerous behavior has only grown with the incentive social media views and “likes” provide.

**House Bill 56 is an important step toward disincentivizing the fleeing of law enforcement, stunt driving, and street takeovers which put the safety of the general public at grave risk; accordingly we ask for your support.**

We thank you for considering our views. We strongly encourage you to utilize NICB as a resource and partner in the fight against insurance crime. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at [hhandler@nicb.org](mailto:hhandler@nicb.org) or 312-771-3974.

Sincerely,



Howard Handler, MPPA  
Senior Director, Strategy, Policy and Government Affairs  
National Insurance Crime Bureau