



Representatives Kevin Miller and Bride Rose Sweeney
Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 131, Prohibit Police Quotas
House Public Safety Committee
April 29, 2025

Chair Abrams, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the House Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I recently came across a news article that said Ohio was known for several things: “Buckeyes, Cedar Point, its Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and the Wright brothers, to name a few. However, Ohio has also become synonymous with its **high police traffic ticket quotas**, making life unnecessarily difficult and unpleasant for locals and visitors alike.”¹

Currently, in Ohio, it is perfectly legal to mandate that a police officer issue a certain number of tickets every day, regardless of the public safety needs of their community. This practice is commonly referred to as a quota system. House Bill 131 would prohibit this unpopular practice and ensure that our law enforcement officers' first priority is to serve and protect the public. This bipartisan, common-sense legislation was unanimously passed out of the House Homeland Security Committee last General Assembly, and its companion bill in the Senate just passed out of committee by a vote of 7-0. The bill has also earned the support of both the law enforcement community and criminal justice reform advocates and has received plenty of public support as well.

Ticket and arrest quotas limit the professional discretion of line-of-duty officers, encourage unnecessary negative encounters with police, and distract from the primary objective of law enforcement, which is and always should be to preserve and improve public safety. Under a quota system, an officer could be expected to write a certain number of tickets or make a certain number of arrests to keep their job or get a promotion. This practice encourages officers to focus on the quantity of tickets they write rather than the quality of their police work and takes away from other important measures of success, including wellness checks, public safety discussions, and other positive community interactions. While parking and traffic citations are useful tools that can be appropriately used to maintain order, they are not the only means of ensuring the ongoing safety of our communities.

Ticket and arrest quotas also hurt officer morale and our state's ability to attract and retain quality police officers. Now more than ever, we can see that young officers and recruits value the

¹ <https://www.ecoportal.net/en/traffic-ticket-quotas-ohio-police/6006/>

ability to engage with their community and want to build positive relationships with the people they serve. Taking away an officer's discretion to write a warning instead of a ticket hurts their ability to build positive relationships and reinforces negative stereotypes in the community. Passing this legislation would give Ohioans confidence that their police force is looking out for their best interest and issuing tickets for the sole purpose of furthering public safety – not to meet an arbitrary ticket quota or generate additional revenue for the city.

There are supervisors, administrators, and officers in charge who view quotas as bad policy but are forced to use them because of an administration that views officers as tools for revenue generation. This is perhaps the greatest reason for prohibiting quotas.

Our law enforcement professionals should never be utilized as revenue generators. Some may ask how to guide an unproductive officer without the use of a written or unwritten quota. The answer is simple: You talk with them, coach them, provide expectations and ensure that they have the training and resources necessary to do their job. You don't just give them an arbitrary number that has no bearing on public safety. Quotas do not make us safer. When the public believes that police officers are subjected to quotas, it undermines the public trust in law enforcement that is so essential for civil society to function. When officers are mandated to meet quotas, it incentivizes quantity of work over quality of work and adds unnecessary pressure to an already stressful job. Banning this practice will ensure that police officers have the professional discretion to make arrests or write tickets in the interest of public safety.

Chair Abrams and Ranking Member Thomas, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony and we would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have.