

**As Reported by the House Local Government Committee**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**Am. H. B. No. 428**

**Representatives Thomas, D., Williams**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Click, King, Glassburn, Brennan**

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To amend sections 9.481, 735.01, and 737.01 of the  
Revised Code regarding residency requirements  
for the city director of public service and the  
city director of public safety.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 9.481, 735.01, and 737.01 of the  
Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 9.481.** (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Political subdivision" has the same meaning as in  
section 2743.01 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Volunteer" means a person who is not paid for service  
or who is employed on less than a permanent full-time basis.

(B) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (B) (2) of  
this section, no political subdivision shall require any of its  
employees, as a condition of employment, to reside in any  
specific area of the state.

(2) (a) Division (B) (1) of this section does not apply to a  
volunteer.

(b) To ensure adequate response times by certain employees

of political subdivisions to emergencies or disasters while 19  
ensuring that those employees generally are free to reside 20  
throughout the state, the electors of any political subdivision 21  
may file an initiative petition to submit a local law to the 22  
electorate, or the legislative authority of the political 23  
subdivision may adopt an ordinance or resolution, that requires 24  
any individual employed by that political subdivision, as a 25  
condition of employment, to reside either in the county where 26  
the political subdivision is located or in any adjacent county 27  
in this state. For the purposes of this section, an initiative 28  
petition shall be filed and considered as provided in sections 29  
731.28 and 731.31 of the Revised Code, except that the fiscal 30  
officer of the political subdivision shall take the actions 31  
prescribed for the auditor or clerk if the political subdivision 32  
has no auditor or clerk, and except that references to a 33  
municipal corporation shall be considered to be references to 34  
the applicable political subdivision. 35

(c) The legislative authority of a city may adopt an 36  
ordinance to require the director of public service under 37  
section 735.01 of the Revised Code or the director of public 38  
safety under section 737.01 of the Revised Code to reside within 39  
the city not later than six months after the director's 40  
appointment. 41

(C) Except as otherwise provided in division (B) (2) of 42  
this section, employees of political subdivisions of this state 43  
have the right to reside any place they desire. 44

**Sec. 735.01.** In each city there shall be a department of 45  
public service which shall be administered by a director of 46  
public service. ~~The director shall be appointed by the mayor and 47~~  
~~need not be a resident of the city at the time of his 48~~

~~appointment but shall become a resident thereof within six~~ 49  
~~months after his appointment unless such residence requirement~~ 50  
~~is waived by ordinance. He~~The director shall make rules and 51  
regulations for the administration of the affairs under ~~his~~the 52  
director's supervision. 53

**Sec. 737.01.** In each city there shall be a department of 54  
public safety, which shall be administered by a director of 55  
public safety. ~~The director shall be appointed by the mayor and~~ 56  
~~need not be a resident of the city at the time of his~~ 57  
~~appointment but shall become a resident thereof within six~~ 58  
~~months after his appointment unless such residence requirement~~ 59  
~~is waived by ordinance.~~ 60

**Section 2.** That existing sections 9.481, 735.01, and 61  
737.01 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 62