

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

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.

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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:

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

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

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

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(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.

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

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(b) To ensure adequate response times by certain employees

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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