# As Passed by the House

**136th General Assembly** 

# **Regular Session**

Sub. H. B. No. 44

2025-2026

Representatives Miller, J., Miller, K.

Cosponsors: Representatives Abrams, Willis, Barhorst, Brennan, Brownlee, Creech, Deeter, Fischer, Ghanbari, Glassburn, Grim, Hall, D., Holmes, Jarrells, Johnson, Jones, Lampton, LaRe, Lett, Lorenz, Mathews, A., Mathews, T., Mohamed, Mullins, Newman, Plummer, Richardson, Robb Blasdel, Roemer, Russo, Salvo, Schmidt, Sigrist, Synenberg, Thomas, C., Upchurch, Williams, Young

Τc	o amend sections 109.804, 124.11, and 124.30 and	1
	to enact sections 109.791 and 737.061 of the	2
	Revised Code regarding training schools for	3
	prospective law enforcement officers, filling a	4
	vacant police department position without a	5
	competitive examination, requirements for chief	6
	of police training, and advanced training for	7
	officers at or above the rank of sergeant.	8

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

Section 1. That sections 109.804, 124.11, and 124.30 be	9
amended and sections 109.791 and 737.061 of the Revised Code be	10
enacted to read as follows:	11
Sec. 109.791. The Ohio peace officer training commission	12
may establish and conduct police officer training courses in	13
addition to those specified in section 109.79 of the Revised	14
Code to be offered to a law enforcement officer at or above the	15
rank of sergeant.	16

Sec. 109.804. (A) (1) The Ohio peace officer training 17 commission shall develop and conduct provide a chief of police 18 training course lasting forty hours for newly appointed chiefs 19 of police appointed on or after January 1, 2018. The commission 20 shall determine the course topics, which shall include diversity 21 training with an emphasis on historical perspectives and 22 community-police relations, and shall establish criteria for 23 what constitutes successful completion of the course. The 24 commission shall conduct the course at the Ohio peace officer 25 training academy locations determined by the commission and in a 26 manner prescribed by the commission. The commission shall offer 27 the course at least semiannually. 28

(2) The executive director of the commission shall issue a certificate of completion of a training program required under this section in accordance with Chapter 4796. of the Revised Code to a newly appointed chief of police if either of the following applies:

(a) The person holds a certificate of completion of such a program in another state.

(b) The person has satisfactory work experience, a
government certification, or a private certification as
described in that chapter as a chief of police in a state that
does not require completion of such a training program.

(B) A newly appointed chief of police may request an
equivalency exemption from a portion eight hours of the forty
hours of the chief of police training course, on topics approved
by the executive director, by submitting to the Ohio peace
officer training commission, not more than ten calendar days
following the person's appointment as a chief of police,
evidence of training or qualification in the subject area of the

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exempted portiontopics.

A request for equivalency exemption by the newly appointe	<u>d</u> 48
chief of police shall be provided to the commission not later	49
than fourteen calendar days before the beginning of the course.	50

(C) Upon presentation of evidence by a newly appointed
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chief of police that because of a medical disability or other
good cause the newly appointed chief of police is unable to
complete the chief of police training course, the Ohio peace
officer training commission may defer the requirement for the
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newly appointed chief of police to complete the chief of police
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training course until the disability or cause terminates.

(D) A newly appointed chief of police appointed on or 58 after January 1, 2018, shall attend a chief of police training 59 course conducted by the Ohio peace officer training commission 60 pursuant to division (A) of this section not later than six 61 months after the person's appointment as a chief of police. 62 While attending the chief of police training course, a newly 63 appointed chief of police shall receive compensation in the same 64 manner and amounts as if carrying out the powers and duties of 65 the office of chief of police. The costs of conducting the chief 66 of police training course shall be paid from state funds 67 appropriated to the attorney general. The cost of meals, 68 lodging, and travel of a newly appointed chief of police 69 attending the chief of police training course shall be paid from 70 the budget of the entity for which the newly appointed chief of 71 72 police was appointed.

(E) As used in this section:

"Newly appointed chief of police" means a person appointed 74 chief of police under section 505.49, 737.05, or 737.15 of the 75

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Revised Code or any administrative official that is responsible76for the daily administration and supervision of peace officers77in a law enforcement agency who did not hold the office has78never held the full-time position of chief of police on the date79before the person was appointed chief of police.80

"Law enforcement agency" means a municipal or township police department, or any other entity authorized by statute to appoint peace officers to enforce criminal laws and who have the statutory power of arrest. "Law enforcement agency" does not include a county sheriff's office, the state highway patrol, or the bureau of criminal identification and investigation.

Sec. 124.11. The civil service of the state and the several counties, cities, civil service townships, city health districts, general health districts, and city school districts of the state shall be divided into the unclassified service and the classified service.

(A) The unclassified service shall comprise the following positions, which shall not be included in the classified service, and which shall be exempt from all examinations required by this chapter:

(1) All officers elected by popular vote or persons96appointed to fill vacancies in those offices;97

(2) All election officers as defined in section 3501.01 of the Revised Code;

(3) (a) The members of all boards and commissions, and
heads of principal departments, boards, and commissions
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appointed by the governor or by and with the governor's consent;
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(b) The heads of all departments appointed by a board ofcounty commissioners;

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(c) The members of all boards and commissions and all	105
heads of departments appointed by the mayor, or, if there is no	106
mayor, such other similar chief appointing authority of any city	107
or city school district;	108
Except as otherwise provided in division (A)(17) or (C) of	109
this section, this chapter does not exempt the chiefs of police	110
departments and chiefs of fire departments of cities or civil	111
service townships from the competitive classified service.	112
(4) The members of county or district licensing boards or	113
commissions and boards of revision, and not more than five	114
deputy county auditors;	115
(5) All officers and employees elected or appointed by	116
either or both branches of the general assembly, and employees	117
of the city legislative authority engaged in legislative duties;	118
(6) All commissioned, warrant, and noncommissioned	119
officers and enlisted persons in the Ohio organized militia,	120
including military appointees in the adjutant general's	121
department;	122
(7)(a) All presidents, business managers, administrative	123
officers, superintendents, assistant superintendents,	124
principals, deans, assistant deans, instructors, teachers, and	125
such employees as are engaged in educational or research duties	126
connected with the public school system, colleges, and	127
universities, as determined by the governing body of the public	128
school system, colleges, and universities;	129

(b) The library staff of any library in the state130supported wholly or in part at public expense.131

(8) Four clerical and administrative support employees foreach of the elective state officers, four clerical and133

administrative support employees for each board of county134commissioners and one such employee for each county135commissioner, and four clerical and administrative support136employees for other elective officers and each of the principal137appointive executive officers, boards, or commissions, except138for civil service commissions, that are authorized to appoint139such clerical and administrative support employees;140

(9) The deputies and assistants of state agencies 141 authorized to act for and on behalf of the agency, or holding a 142 fiduciary or administrative relation to that agency and those 143 persons employed by and directly responsible to elected county 144 officials or a county administrator and holding a fiduciary or 145 administrative relationship to such elected county officials or 146 county administrator, and the employees of such county officials 147 whose fitness would be impracticable to determine by competitive 148 examination, provided that division (A) (9) of this section shall 149 not affect those persons in county employment in the classified 150 service as of September 19, 1961. Nothing in division (A) (9) of 151 this section applies to any position in a county department of 152 job and family services created pursuant to Chapter 329. of the 153 Revised Code. 154

(10) Bailiffs, constables, official stenographers, and 155 commissioners of courts of record, deputies of clerks of the 156 courts of common pleas who supervise or who handle public moneys 157 or secured documents, and such officers and employees of courts 158 of record and such deputies of clerks of the courts of common 159 pleas as the appointing authority finds it impracticable to 160 determine their fitness by competitive examination; 161

(11) Assistants to the attorney general, special counselappointed or employed by the attorney general, assistants to163

county prosecuting attorneys, and assistants to city directors 164 of law; 165

(12) Such teachers and employees in the agricultural 166 experiment stations; such students in normal schools, colleges, 167 and universities of the state who are employed by the state or a 168 political subdivision of the state in student or intern 169 classifications; and such unskilled labor positions as the 170 director of administrative services, with respect to positions 171 in the service of the state, or any municipal civil service 172 commission may find it impracticable to include in the 173 competitive classified service; provided such exemptions shall 174 be by order of the commission or the director, duly entered on 175 the record of the commission or the director with the reasons 176 for each such exemption; 177

(13) Any physician or dentist who is a full-time employee
of the department of mental health and addiction services, the
department of developmental disabilities, or an institution
under the jurisdiction of either department; and physicians who
are in residency programs at the institutions;

(14) Up to twenty positions at each institution under the 183 jurisdiction of the department of mental health and addiction 184 services or the department of developmental disabilities that 185 the department director determines to be primarily 186 administrative or managerial; and up to fifteen positions in any 187 division of either department, excluding administrative 188 assistants to the director and division chiefs, which are within 189 the immediate staff of a division chief and which the director 190 determines to be primarily and distinctively administrative and 191 192 managerial;

(15) Noncitizens of the United States employed by the

state, or its counties or cities, as physicians or nurses who 194 are duly licensed to practice their respective professions under 195 the laws of this state, or medical assistants, in mental or 196 chronic disease hospitals, or institutions; 197 (16) Employees of the governor's office; 198 (17) Fire chiefs and chiefs of police in civil service 199 townships appointed by boards of township trustees under section 200 505.38 or 505.49 of the Revised Code; 201 (18) Executive directors, deputy directors, and program 202 directors employed by boards of alcohol, drug addiction, and 203 mental health services under Chapter 340. of the Revised Code, 204 and secretaries of the executive directors, deputy directors, 205 and program directors; 206 (19) Superintendents, and management employees as defined 207 in section 5126.20 of the Revised Code, of county boards of 208 developmental disabilities; 209 (20) Physicians, nurses, and other employees of a county 210 hospital who are appointed pursuant to sections 339.03 and 211 339.06 of the Revised Code: 212 (21) The executive director of the state medical board, 213 who is appointed pursuant to division (B) of section 4731.05 of 214 the Revised Code; 215 (22) County directors of job and family services as 216 provided in section 329.02 of the Revised Code and 217 administrators appointed under section 329.021 of the Revised 218 Code; 219 (23) A director of economic development who is hired 220 pursuant to division (A) of section 307.07 of the Revised Code; 221

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(24) Chiefs of construction and compliance, of operations and maintenance, of worker protection, and of licensing and certification in the division of industrial compliance in the department of commerce;

(25) The executive director of a county transit system appointed under division (A) of section 306.04 of the Revised Code;

(26) Up to five positions at each of the administrative 229 departments listed in section 121.02 of the Revised Code and at 230 231 the department of taxation, department of the adjutant general, department of education, Ohio board of regents, bureau of 232 workers' compensation, industrial commission, state lottery 233 commission, opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities agency, 234 and public utilities commission of Ohio that the head of that 235 administrative department or of that other state agency 236 determines to be involved in policy development and 237 implementation. The head of the administrative department or 238 other state agency shall set the compensation for employees in 239 these positions at a rate that is not less than the minimum 240 compensation specified in pay range 41 but not more than the 241 maximum compensation specified in pay range 47 of salary 242 schedule E-2 in section 124.152 of the Revised Code. The 243 authority to establish positions in the unclassified service 244 under division (A) (26) of this section is in addition to and 245 does not limit any other authority that an administrative 246 department or state agency has under the Revised Code to 247 establish positions, appoint employees, or set compensation. 248

(27) Employees of the department of agriculture employedunder section 901.09 of the Revised Code;250

(28) For cities, counties, civil service townships, city 251

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health districts, general health districts, and city school 252 districts, the deputies and assistants of elective or principal 253 executive officers authorized to act for and in the place of 254 their principals or holding a fiduciary relation to their 255 principals; 256

(29) Employees who receive intermittent or temporary appointments under division <del>(B)</del><u>(C)</u>of section 124.30 of the Revised Code;

(30) Employees appointed to administrative staff positions
for which an appointing authority is given specific statutory
authority to set compensation;
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(31) Employees appointed to highway patrol cadet or highway patrol cadet candidate classifications;

(32) Employees appointed to participate in a prospective265law enforcement training school under section 737.061 of the266Revised Code;267

(33) Employees placed in the unclassified service by 268 another section of the Revised Code. 269

(B) The classified service shall comprise all persons in 270 the employ of the state and the several counties, cities, city 271 272 health districts, general health districts, and city school districts of the state, not specifically included in the 273 unclassified service. Upon the creation by the board of trustees 274 of a civil service township civil service commission, the 275 classified service shall also comprise, except as otherwise 276 provided in division (A) (17) or (C) of this section, all persons 277 in the employ of a civil service township police or fire 278 department having ten or more full-time paid employees. The 279 classified service consists of two classes, which shall be 280

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designated as the competitive class and the unskilled labor class.

(1) The competitive class shall include all positions and 283 employments in the state and the counties, cities, city health 284 districts, general health districts, and city school districts 285 of the state, and, upon the creation by the board of trustees of 286 a civil service township of a township civil service commission, 287 all positions in a civil service township police or fire 288 department having ten or more full-time paid employees, for 289 290 which it is practicable to determine the merit and fitness of applicants by competitive examinations. Appointments shall be 291 made to, or employment shall be given in, all positions in the 292 competitive class that are not filled by promotion, 293 reinstatement, transfer, or reduction, as provided in this 294 chapter, and the rules of the director of administrative 295 services, by appointment from those certified to the appointing 296 officer in accordance with this chapter. 297

(2) The unskilled labor class shall include ordinary 298 unskilled laborers. Vacancies in the labor class for positions 299 in service of the state shall be filled by appointment from 300 lists of applicants registered by the director or the director's 301 302 designee. Vacancies in the labor class for all other positions shall be filled by appointment from lists of applicants 303 registered by a commission. The director or the commission, as 304 applicable, by rule, shall require an applicant for registration 305 in the labor class to furnish evidence or take tests as the 306 director or commission considers proper with respect to age, 307 residence, physical condition, ability to labor, honesty, 308 sobriety, industry, capacity, and experience in the work or 309 employment for which application is made. Laborers who fulfill 310 the requirements shall be placed on the eligible list for the 311

kind of labor or employment sought, and preference shall be 312 given in employment in accordance with the rating received from 313 that evidence or in those tests. Upon the request of an 314 appointing officer, stating the kind of labor needed, the pay 315 and probable length of employment, and the number to be 316 employed, the director or commission, as applicable, shall 317 certify from the highest on the list double the number to be 318 employed; from this number, the appointing officer shall appoint 319 the number actually needed for the particular work. If more than 320 one applicant receives the same rating, priority in time of 321 application shall determine the order in which their names shall 322 be certified for appointment. 323

(C) A municipal or civil service township civil service commission may place volunteer firefighters who are paid on a fee-for-service basis in either the classified or the unclassified civil service.

(D) (1) This division does not apply to persons in the 328
unclassified service who have the right to resume positions in 329
the classified service under sections 4121.121, 5119.18, 330
5120.38, 5120.381, 5120.382, 5123.08, and 5139.02 of the Revised 331
Code or to cities, counties, or political subdivisions of the 332
state. 333

(2) A person who holds a position in the classified 334 service of the state and who is appointed to a position in the 335 unclassified service shall retain the right to resume the 336 position and status held by the person in the classified service 337 immediately prior to the person's appointment to the position in 338 the unclassified service, regardless of the number of positions 339 the person held in the unclassified service. An employee's right 340 to resume a position in the classified service may only be 341

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exercised when an appointing authority demotes the employee to a 342 pay range lower than the employee's current pay range or revokes 343 the employee's appointment to the unclassified service and any 344 of the following apply: 345

(a) That person held a certified position prior to July 1, 346
2007, in the classified service within the appointing 347
authority's agency; 348

(b) That person held a permanent position on or after July 349
1, 2007, in the classified service within the appointing 350
authority's agency, and was appointed to the position in the 351
unclassified service prior to January 1, 2016; 352

(c) That person held a permanent position on or after
January 1, 2016, in the classified service within the appointing
authority's agency, and is within five years from the effective
date of the person's appointment in the unclassified service.

(3) An employee forfeits the right to resume a position in(3) An employee forfeits the right to resume a position in(3) 357

(a) The employee is removed from the position in the 359 unclassified service due to incompetence, inefficiency, 360 dishonesty, drunkenness, immoral conduct, insubordination, 361 discourteous treatment of the public, neglect of duty, violation 362 of this chapter or the rules of the director of administrative 363 services, any other failure of good behavior, any other acts of 364 misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, or 365 conviction of a felony while employed in the civil service; or 366

(b) Upon transfer to a different agency.

(4) Reinstatement to a position in the classified service
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director of administrative services. If the position the person 371 previously held in the classified service has been placed in the 372 unclassified service or is otherwise unavailable, the person 373 shall be appointed to a position in the classified service 374 within the appointing authority's agency that the director of 375 administrative services certifies is comparable in compensation 376 to the position the person previously held in the classified 377 service. Service in the position in the unclassified service 378 shall be counted as service in the position in the classified 379 service held by the person immediately prior to the person's 380 appointment to the position in the unclassified service. When a 381 person is reinstated to a position in the classified service as 382 provided in this division, the person is entitled to all rights, 383 status, and benefits accruing to the position in the classified 384 service during the person's time of service in the position in 385 the unclassified service. 386

**Sec. 124.30.** (A) Classified positions in the civil service may be filled without competition as follows:

(1) Whenever there are urgent reasons for filling a
vacancy in any position in the classified civil service and the
director of administrative services is unable to certify to the
appointing authority, upon its request, a list of persons
eligible for appointment to the position after a competitive
appointing authority may fill the position by
appointive examination.

A temporary appointment may be made without regard to the396rules of sections 124.01 to 124.64 of the Revised Code. Except397as otherwise provided in this division, the temporary398appointment may not continue longer than one hundred twenty399days, and in no case shall successive temporary appointments be400

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made. A temporary appointment longer than one hundred twenty401days may be made if necessary by reason of sickness, disability,402or other approved leave of absence of regular officers or403employees, in which case it may continue during the period of404sickness, disability, or other approved leave of absence,405subject to the rules of the director.406

(2) In case of a vacancy in a position in the classified 407 civil service where peculiar and exceptional qualifications of a 408 scientific, managerial, professional, or educational character 409 are required, and upon satisfactory evidence that for specified 410 reasons competition in this special case is impracticable and 411 that the position can best be filled by a selection of some 412 designated person of high and recognized attainments in those 413 qualities, the director may suspend the provisions of sections 414 124.01 to 124.64 of the Revised Code that require competition in 415 this special case, but no suspension shall be general in its 416 application. All such cases of suspension shall be reported in 417 the annual report of the director with the reasons for each 418 suspension. The director shall suspend the provisions when 419 either of the following applies: 420

(a) The director of job and family services provides the
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certification under section 5101.051 of the Revised Code that a
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position with the department of job and family services can best
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be filled if the provisions are suspended;
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(b) The medicaid director provides the certification under
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section 5160.051 of the Revised Code that a position with the
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department of medicaid can best be filled if the provisions are
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suspended.

(3) Except as provided in division (D) of this section, in429case of a vacancy in a position in the classified civil service430

in a police department, on satisfactory evidence that for	431
specified reasons competition in this special case is	
impracticable and that the position can best be filled by a	433
selection of some designated person holding a specialized	434
certification, possessing peculiar and exceptional	435
qualifications, or having completed a police cadet training	436
program through the police department, the director of	437
administrative services may suspend the provisions of sections	438
124.01 to 124.64 of the Revised Code that require competition in	439
this special case, but no suspension shall be general in its	440
application.	441
(B) The acceptance or refusal by an eligible person of a	442
temporary appointment under division (A)(1) of this section	443
shall not affect the person's standing on the eligible list for	444
permanent appointment, nor shall the period of temporary service	445
be counted as a part of the probationary service in case of	446
subsequent appointment to a permanent position.	447
(C) Persons who receive temporary or intermittent	448
appointments under division (A)(1) of this section are in the	449
unclassified civil service and serve at the pleasure of their	450
appointing authority.	451
(D) Division (A)(3) of this section does not apply to a	452
vacancy in a position in the classified civil service in a	453
police department that must be filled by promotion as prescribed	454
in section 124.44 of the Revised Code.	455
Sec. 737.061. (A) The chief of police of a municipal	456
corporation may conduct training schools for prospective law	457
enforcement officers. The training school programs shall align	458
with Ohio peace officer training academy standards and cadet	459
qualifications. The prospective officers, during the period of	460

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training and as members of the training school, may be paid a	
reasonable salary. The chief of police may furnish the necessary	
supplies and equipment for the use of the prospective officers	463
during the training period.	
(B) The chief of police may establish rules governing the	465
qualifications for admission to training schools for prospective	466
officers and provide for competitive examinations to determine	467
the fitness of the students and prospective officers, not	468
inconsistent with the rules of the director of administrative	469
services.	470
(C) Upon completion of a training school program	471
established under this section, a program graduate may be hired	472
directly by the relevant department, provided the graduate also	473
satisfies the requirements for original appointment under	474
section 109.77 of the Revised Code.	
Section 2. That existing sections 109.804, 124.11, and	476
124.30 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	477