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

Senator Johnson

To 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	29
certificate of completion of a training program required under	30
this section in accordance with Chapter 4796. of the Revised	31
Code to a newly appointed chief of police if either of the	32
following applies:	33
(a) The person holds a certificate of completion of such a	34
program in another state.	35
(b) The person has satisfactory work experience, a	36
government certification, or a private certification as	37
described in that chapter as a chief of police in a state that	38
does not require completion of such a training program.	39
(B) A newly appointed chief of police may request an	4 C
equivalency exemption from a portion eight hours of the forty	41
hours of the chief of police training course, on topics approved	42
by the executive director, by submitting to the Ohio peace	43

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officer training commission, not more than ten calendar days	44
following the person's appointment as a chief of police,	45
evidence of training or qualification in the subject area of the	46
exempted portion topics.	47
A request for equivalency exemption by the newly appointed	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	51
chief of police that because of a medical disability or other	52
good cause the newly appointed chief of police is unable to	53
complete the chief of police training course, the Ohio peace	54
officer training commission may defer the requirement for the	55
newly appointed chief of police to complete the chief of police	56
training course until the disability or cause terminates.	57
(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
police was appointed.	72

(E) As used in this section:

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"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 Revised Code or any administrative official that is responsible 76 for the daily administration and supervision of peace officers 77 in a law enforcement agency who did not hold the office has 78 never held the full-time position of chief of police on the date 79 before the person was appointed chief of police. 80

"Law enforcement agency" means a municipal or township 81 police department, or any other entity authorized by statute to 82 appoint peace officers to enforce criminal laws and who have the 83 statutory power of arrest. "Law enforcement agency" does not 84 include a county sheriff's office, the state highway patrol, or 85 the bureau of criminal identification and investigation. 86

Sec. 124.11. The civil service of the state and the 87 several counties, cities, civil service townships, city health 88 districts, general health districts, and city school districts 89 of the state shall be divided into the unclassified service and 90 the classified service. 91

(A) The unclassified service shall comprise the following
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positions, which shall not be included in the classified
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service, and which shall be exempt from all examinations
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required by this chapter:
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(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 of98the Revised Code;99

(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 of	103
county commissioners;	104
(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 state	130
supported wholly or in part at public expense.	131

(8) Four clerical and administrative support employees for 132 each of the elective state officers, four clerical and 133 administrative support employees for each board of county 134 commissioners and one such employee for each county 135 commissioner, and four clerical and administrative support 136 employees for other elective officers and each of the principal 137 appointive executive officers, boards, or commissions, except 138 for civil service commissions, that are authorized to appoint 139 such 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 counsel 162 appointed or employed by the attorney general, assistants to 163 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 178 of the department of mental health and addiction services, the 179 department of developmental disabilities, or an institution 180 under the jurisdiction of either department; and physicians who 181 are in residency programs at the institutions; 182

(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

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managerial;	192
(15) Noncitizens of the United States employed by the	193
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 hiredpursuant to division (A) of section 307.07 of the Revised Code;221

(24) Chiefs of construction and compliance, of operations 222 and maintenance, of worker protection, and of licensing and 223 certification in the division of industrial compliance in the 224 department of commerce; 225

(25) The executive director of a county transit system226appointed under division (A) of section 306.04 of the Revised227Code;228

(26) Up to five positions at each of the administrative 229 departments listed in section 121.02 of the Revised Code and at 230 the department of taxation, department of the adjutant general, 231 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 employed 249

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under section 901.09 of the Revised Code;	250
(28) For cities, counties, civil service townships, city	251
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	257
appointments under division $\frac{(B)}{(C)}$ of section 124.30 of the	258
Revised Code;	259
(30) Employees appointed to administrative staff positions	260
for which an appointing authority is given specific statutory	261
authority to set compensation;	262
(31) Employees appointed to highway patrol cadet or	263
highway patrol cadet candidate classifications;	264
(32) Employees appointed to participate in a prospective	265
law enforcement training school under section 737.061 of the	266
Revised 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

the employ of the state and the several counties, cities, city 271 health districts, general health districts, and city school 272 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. The279classified service consists of two classes, which shall be280designated as the competitive class and the unskilled labor281class.282

(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, 287 288 all positions in a civil service township police or fire 289 department having ten or more full-time paid employees, for which it is practicable to determine the merit and fitness of 290 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 designee. Vacancies in the labor class for all other positions 302 303 shall be filled by appointment from lists of applicants 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 315 316 and probable length of employment, and the number to be 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

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the person held in the unclassified service. An employee's right340to resume a position in the classified service may only be341exercised when an appointing authority demotes the employee to a342pay range lower than the employee's current pay range or revokes343the employee's appointment to the unclassified service and any344of 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.

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(3) An employee forfeits the right to resume a position in the classified service when:

(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 368

shall be to a position substantially equal to that position in 369 the classified service held previously, as certified by the 370 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
services and the services
appointing authority may fill the position by
appointive examination.

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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 temporary398

appointment may not continue longer than one hundred twenty 399 days, and in no case shall successive temporary appointments be 400 made. A temporary appointment longer than one hundred twenty 401 days may be made if necessary by reason of sickness, disability, 402 or other approved leave of absence of regular officers or 403 employees, in which case it may continue during the period of 404 sickness, disability, or other approved leave of absence, 405 subject 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
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
section 5160.051 of the Revised Code that a position with the
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, in	429
case of a vacancy in a position in the classified civil service	430
in a police department, on satisfactory evidence that for	431
specified reasons competition in this special case is	432
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 section443shall not affect the person's standing on the eligible list for444permanent appointment, nor shall the period of temporary service445be counted as a part of the probationary service in case of446subsequent appointment to a permanent position.447

(B) (C)Persons who receive temporary or intermittent448appointments under division (A) (1) of this section are in the449unclassified civil service and serve at the pleasure of their450appointing authority.451

(D) Division (A) (3) of this section does not apply to a452vacancy in a position in the classified civil service in a453police department that must be filled by promotion as prescribed454in section 124.44 of the Revised Code.455

Sec. 737.061. (A) The chief of police of a municipal456corporation may conduct training schools for prospective law457enforcement officers. The training school programs shall align458

with Ohio peace officer training academy standards and cadet	459
qualifications. The prospective officers, during the period of	460
training and as members of the training school, may be paid a	461
reasonable salary. The chief of police may furnish the necessary	462
supplies and equipment for the use of the prospective officers	463
during the training period.	464
(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.	475
Section 2. That existing sections 109.804, 124.11, and	476
124.30 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	477