

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 817**

**Representative Williams**

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To create the NextGen Public Safety Pilot Program, 1  
to authorize Local Government Fund reductions if 2  
Lucas County or the City of Toledo fail to abide 3  
by certain terms of a grant under that Program, 4  
and to make an appropriation. 5

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

**Section 1.** (A) As used in this section, "major 6  
metropolitan city" means a city with a population of one hundred 7  
thousand or more according to the most recent federal decennial 8  
census. 9

(B) The NextGen Public Safety Pilot Program is created, 10  
which shall be a two-year pilot program to support the 11  
deployment of modern public safety technologies by local 12  
governments within Lucas County. Under the pilot program, the 13  
Department of Public Safety shall award grants to any of the 14  
following upon application to the Department: 15

(1) Lucas County, if both of the following apply: 16

(a) The board of county commissioners has entered into a 17  
contract prior to the effective date of this section to fund a 18  
county-wide license plate reader system; 19

(b) The county is maintaining such system at the time of 20

application. 21

Additionally, the board shall include in the application a 22  
statement that the board agrees to maintain the system for at 23  
least five years from the date of receipt of any grant awards 24  
under this section. The board also shall include in the 25  
application a statement that the board agrees to increase by 26  
twenty-five per cent the number of license plate readers and 27  
cameras that existed within the jurisdiction immediately prior 28  
to the date of receipt of any grant awards under this section 29  
and that such expansion shall be achieved within one year after 30  
receiving the last grant award. If the board has entered into 31  
such a contract and has made application, with the required 32  
statement, to the Department to receive a grant under this 33  
section, the Department shall award to Lucas County a grant of 34  
five hundred thousand dollars for fiscal year 2026 and five 35  
hundred thousand dollars for fiscal year 2027. Upon receipt of 36  
the award, Lucas County shall remit the award to the Lucas 37  
County Sheriff's office, which shall use it to purchase 38  
additional license plate readers and any associated technology 39  
and infrastructure. 40

If the Department of Public Safety determines that the 41  
Lucas County Sheriff's office has failed to increase by twenty- 42  
five per cent the number of license plate readers and cameras 43  
that existed within the jurisdiction immediately prior to the 44  
date of receipt of any grant awards under this section within 45  
one year after receiving the last grant award, the Department 46  
shall notify the Tax Commissioner. Upon receipt of this 47  
notification, the Tax Commissioner, beginning with the next 48  
monthly payment required to be made under division (B) of 49  
section 5747.50 of the Revised Code, shall reduce each such 50  
payment to the county's undivided local government fund. 51

Except as otherwise provided in this division, the 52  
reduction shall be by the same percentage as that certified as 53  
Lucas County's percentage share, as a political subdivision, 54  
certified to the Tax Commissioner under division (J) of section 55  
5747.51 of the Revised Code, applicable to that month. The 56  
reductions shall continue until aggregate reductions equal the 57  
amount of the grant disbursed to Lucas County under division (B) 58  
(1) of this section. If, in any month, a reduction by the 59  
percentage certified as Lucas County's percentage share, as a 60  
political subdivision, would result in aggregate reductions in 61  
excess of the amount of the grant then the reduction for that 62  
month shall be reduced so the aggregate reductions equal the 63  
amount of the grant. 64

Until reductions cease, payments made from the county's 65  
undivided local government fund shall be made as if the amount 66  
certified as Lucas County's share as a subdivision was the 67  
percentage actually certified less the percentage used to 68  
calculate the reduction under this division. 69

The Commissioner shall transfer the amount of any reduced 70  
payment under this division from the Local Government Fund to 71  
the General Revenue Fund. 72

(2) (a) The City of Toledo, if both of the following apply: 73

(i) The legislative authority of the city has entered into 74  
a contract prior to the effective date of this section to fund a 75  
city-wide license plate reader system. 76

(ii) The city is maintaining such system at the time of 77  
application. 78

Additionally, the legislative authority shall include in 79  
the application a statement that the legislative authority 80

agrees to maintain the system for at least five years from the 81  
date of receipt of any grant awards under this section. The 82  
legislative authority also shall include in the application a 83  
statement that the legislative authority agrees to increase by 84  
twenty-five per cent the number of license plate readers and 85  
cameras that existed within the city immediately prior to the 86  
date of receipt of any grant awards under this section and that 87  
such expansion shall be achieved within one year after receiving 88  
the last grant award. If the legislative authority has entered 89  
into such a contract and has made application, with the required 90  
statement, to the Department to receive a grant under this 91  
section, the Department shall award to the City of Toledo a 92  
grant of five hundred thousand dollars for fiscal year 2026 and 93  
five hundred thousand dollars for fiscal year 2027. Upon receipt 94  
of the award, the city shall remit the award to the Toledo 95  
police department, which shall use it to purchase additional 96  
license plate readers and any associated technology and 97  
infrastructure. 98

(b) If the Department of Public Safety determines that the 99  
Toledo police department has failed to increase by twenty-five 100  
per cent the number of license plate readers and cameras that 101  
existed within the city immediately prior to the date of receipt 102  
of any grant awards under this section within one year after 103  
receiving the last grant award, the Department shall notify the 104  
Tax Commissioner. Upon receipt of this notification, the Tax 105  
Commissioner shall do both of the following: 106

(i) Cease making payments to the city from the local 107  
government fund under division (C) of section 5747.50 of the 108  
Revised Code. 109

(ii) Beginning with the next monthly payment required to 110

be made under division (B) of section 5747.50 of the Revised Code, reduce each such payment to the county's undivided local government fund. Except as otherwise provided in division (B) (2) (b) of this section, this reduction shall be by the same percentage as that certified as the city's percentage share, as a political subdivision, certified to the Tax Commissioner under division (J) of section 5747.51 of the Revised Code, applicable to that month.

The reductions under divisions (A) (2) (b) (i) and (ii) of this section shall continue until aggregate reductions equal the amount of the grant disbursed to the City of Toledo under division (B) (2) of this section. If, in any month, a reduction would result in aggregate reductions in excess of the amount of the grant then the reduction for that month shall be reduced so the aggregate reductions equal the amount of the grant.

Until reductions cease, payments made from the county's undivided local government fund shall be made as if the amount certified as the City of Toledo's share as a subdivision was the percentage actually certified less the percentage used to calculate the reduction under this division.

The Tax Commissioner shall transfer the amount of any reduced payment under division (B) (2) (b) of this section from the Local Government Fund to the General Revenue Fund.

(3) A major metropolitan city located within Lucas County that has invested in public safety drone technology. If the city has invested in such technology and has made application to the Department to receive grant money under this section, the Department shall award to the city a grant of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars for fiscal year 2026 and seven hundred fifty thousand dollars for fiscal year 2027. Upon receipt of the

award, the city shall remit the award to the Toledo police 141  
department, which shall use it to purchase additional public 142  
safety drones and any associated technology and infrastructure. 143  
Any public safety drones and associated technology and 144  
infrastructure purchased through grant money in accordance with 145  
this division shall comply with the applicable federal laws and 146  
regulations, including those in the national security interests 147  
of the United States. As such, the public safety drones, 148  
technology, and infrastructure purchased shall comply with the 149  
"American Security Drone Act of 2023," as part of the "National 150  
Defense Authorization Act of 2024," (Pub. L. No. 118-31, 151  
Division A, Title XVIII, Subtitle B-Drone Security SEC.1821), 152  
and any other applicable conditions of national defense 153  
spending. 154

(4) A major metropolitan city located within Lucas County 155  
that has invested in a stationary surveillance camera system 156  
network in public areas that has a command system and a network 157  
and command center in existence as of the effective date of this 158  
section. If the city has invested in such a network and has made 159  
application to the Department to receive a grant under this 160  
section, the Department shall award to the city a grant of one 161  
million five hundred thousand dollars for fiscal year 2026 and 162  
one million five hundred thousand dollars for fiscal year 2027. 163  
Upon receipt of the award, the city shall remit the award to the 164  
Toledo police department. The police department shall use seven 165  
hundred fifty thousand dollars of the grant award each year the 166  
award is given for additional staff and infrastructure to 167  
upgrade the command center and the remaining amount for 168  
additional stationary surveillance cameras to expand the 169  
network. 170

(C) (1) The Department of Public Safety shall award, upon 171

application, a one-time additional grant of five hundred	172
thousand dollars to any major metropolitan city in Lucas County	173
that enacts an ordinance requiring all commercial businesses	174
within the city to install front-facing security cameras that	175
meet all of the following requirements:	176
(a) The cameras are in 4K resolution;	177
(b) The cameras have continuous video feed;	178
(c) The cameras retain footage for at least thirty days.	179
(2) A major metropolitan city that receives the additional	180
grant under division (C) (1) of this section shall use four	181
hundred thousand dollars of the award to establish a grant	182
program for gas stations that have fifty or fewer employees in	183
this state and that comply with the ordinance to reimburse the	184
gas stations for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of	185
the cameras. The city shall use the remainder of the award to	186
market, promote, and encourage compliance with the ordinance.	187
(D) If Lucas County or a major metropolitan city receives	188
a grant under this section, the county or city shall submit a	189
report to the Department of Public Safety not later than January	190
1, 2028. The report shall detail the number of violent and	191
nonviolent crime cases reported in fiscal years 2025, 2026, and	192
2027, the closure rate of those cases, and the number of	193
outstanding violent and nonviolent crime cases.	194
(E) To evaluate the pilot program's success and to	195
determine the potential for expanded statewide legislation, not	196
later than January 1, 2032, the Department of Public Safety	197
shall submit a report to the General Assembly and to the	198
Governor detailing the effectiveness or lack of effectiveness of	199
the pilot program on reducing crime rates and increasing closure	200

rates of crimes. 201

**Section 2.** All items in this act are hereby appropriated 202  
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 203  
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 204  
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 205  
2026 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2027. 206  
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 207  
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 208

**Section 3.** 209  
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1	2	3	4	5
A	DPS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY			
B	General Revenue Fund			
C	GRF 768425 Justice Program Services		\$3,750,000	\$3,250,000
D	General Revenue Fund Total		\$3,750,000	\$3,250,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS		\$3,750,000	\$3,250,000

JUSTICE PROGRAM SERVICES 211

The foregoing appropriation item 768425, Justice Program 212  
Services, shall be used to award grants in accordance with 213  
Section 1 of this act as part of the NextGen Public Safety Pilot 214  
Program. 215

**Section 4.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the 216  
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 217  
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 218  
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 219

appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from	220
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be	221
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all	222
applicable provisions of, H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly.	223