

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

S. B. No. 169

Senator Ingram

Cosponsor: Senator Craig

To amend sections 109.71 and 109.79 and to enact
section 109.7413 of the Revised Code to require
training on emotional intelligence for peace
officers.

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

Section 1. That sections 109.71 and 109.79 be amended and
section 109.7413 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as
follows:

Sec. 109.71. There is hereby created in the office of the
attorney general the Ohio peace officer training commission. The
commission shall consist of ten members appointed by the
governor with the advice and consent of the senate and selected
as follows: one member representing the public; one member who
represents a fraternal organization representing law enforcement
officers; two members who are incumbent sheriffs; two members
who are incumbent chiefs of police; one member from the bureau
of criminal identification and investigation; one member from
the state highway patrol; one member who is the special agent in
charge of a field office of the federal bureau of investigation
in this state; and one member from the department of education
and workforce, trade and industrial education services, law

enforcement training. 21

This section does not confer any arrest authority or any 22
ability or authority to detain a person, write or issue any 23
citation, or provide any disposition alternative, as granted 24
under Chapter 2935. of the Revised Code. 25

Pursuant to division (A) (9) of section 101.82 of the 26
Revised Code, the commission is exempt from the requirements of 27
sections 101.82 to 101.87 of the Revised Code. 28

As used in sections 109.71 to 109.801 of the Revised Code: 29

(A) "Peace officer" means: 30

(1) A deputy sheriff, marshal, deputy marshal, member of 31
the organized police department of a township or municipal 32
corporation, member of a township police district or joint 33
police district police force, member of a police force employed 34
by a metropolitan housing authority under division (D) of 35
section 3735.31 of the Revised Code, or township constable, who 36
is commissioned and employed as a peace officer by a political 37
subdivision of this state or by a metropolitan housing 38
authority, and whose primary duties are to preserve the peace, 39
to protect life and property, and to enforce the laws of this 40
state, ordinances of a municipal corporation, resolutions of a 41
township, or regulations of a board of county commissioners or 42
board of township trustees, or any of those laws, ordinances, 43
resolutions, or regulations; 44

(2) A police officer who is employed by a railroad company 45
and appointed and commissioned by the secretary of state 46
pursuant to sections 4973.17 to 4973.22 of the Revised Code; 47

(3) Employees of the department of taxation engaged in the 48
enforcement of Chapter 5743. of the Revised Code and designated 49

by the tax commissioner for peace officer training for purposes 50
of the delegation of investigation powers under section 5743.45 51
of the Revised Code; 52

(4) An undercover drug agent; 53

(5) Enforcement agents of the department of public safety 54
whom the director of public safety designates under section 55
5502.14 of the Revised Code; 56

(6) An employee of the department of natural resources who 57
is a natural resources law enforcement staff officer designated 58
pursuant to section 1501.013, a natural resources officer 59
appointed pursuant to section 1501.24, a forest-fire 60
investigator appointed pursuant to section 1503.09, or a 61
wildlife officer designated pursuant to section 1531.13 of the 62
Revised Code; 63

(7) An employee of a park district who is designated 64
pursuant to section 511.232 or 1545.13 of the Revised Code; 65

(8) An employee of a conservancy district who is 66
designated pursuant to section 6101.75 of the Revised Code; 67

(9) A police officer who is employed by a hospital that 68
employs and maintains its own proprietary police department or 69
security department, and who is appointed and commissioned by 70
the secretary of state pursuant to sections 4973.17 to 4973.22 71
of the Revised Code; 72

(10) Veterans' homes police officers designated under 73
section 5907.02 of the Revised Code; 74

(11) A police officer who is employed by a qualified 75
nonprofit corporation police department pursuant to section 76
1702.80 of the Revised Code; 77

(12) A state university law enforcement officer appointed 78
under section 3345.04 of the Revised Code or a person serving as 79
a state university law enforcement officer on a permanent basis 80
on June 19, 1978, who has been awarded a certificate by the 81
executive director of the Ohio peace officer training commission 82
attesting to the person's satisfactory completion of an approved 83
state, county, municipal, or department of natural resources 84
peace officer basic training program; 85

(13) A special police officer employed by the department 86
of mental health and addiction services pursuant to section 87
5119.08 of the Revised Code or the department of developmental 88
disabilities pursuant to section 5123.13 of the Revised Code; 89

(14) A member of a campus police department appointed 90
under section 1713.50 of the Revised Code; 91

(15) A member of a police force employed by a regional 92
transit authority under division (Y) of section 306.35 of the 93
Revised Code; 94

(16) Investigators appointed by the auditor of state 95
pursuant to section 117.091 of the Revised Code and engaged in 96
the enforcement of Chapter 117. of the Revised Code; 97

(17) A special police officer designated by the 98
superintendent of the state highway patrol pursuant to section 99
5503.09 of the Revised Code or a person who was serving as a 100
special police officer pursuant to that section on a permanent 101
basis on October 21, 1997, and who has been awarded a 102
certificate by the executive director of the Ohio peace officer 103
training commission attesting to the person's satisfactory 104
completion of an approved state, county, municipal, or 105
department of natural resources peace officer basic training 106

program; 107

(18) A special police officer employed by a port authority 108
under section 4582.04 or 4582.28 of the Revised Code or a person 109
serving as a special police officer employed by a port authority 110
on a permanent basis on May 17, 2000, who has been awarded a 111
certificate by the executive director of the Ohio peace officer 112
training commission attesting to the person's satisfactory 113
completion of an approved state, county, municipal, or 114
department of natural resources peace officer basic training 115
program; 116

(19) A special police officer employed by a municipal 117
corporation who has been awarded a certificate by the executive 118
director of the Ohio peace officer training commission for 119
satisfactory completion of an approved peace officer basic 120
training program and who is employed on a permanent basis on or 121
after March 19, 2003, at a municipal airport, or other municipal 122
air navigation facility, that has scheduled operations, as 123
defined in section 119.3 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal 124
Regulations, 14 C.F.R. 119.3, as amended, and that is required 125
to be under a security program and is governed by aviation 126
security rules of the transportation security administration of 127
the United States department of transportation as provided in 128
Parts 1542. and 1544. of Title 49 of the Code of Federal 129
Regulations, as amended; 130

(20) A police officer who is employed by an owner or 131
operator of an amusement park that has an average yearly 132
attendance in excess of six hundred thousand guests and that 133
employs and maintains its own proprietary police department or 134
security department, and who is appointed and commissioned by a 135
judge of the appropriate municipal court or county court 136

pursuant to section 4973.17 of the Revised Code; 137

(21) A police officer who is employed by a bank, savings 138
and loan association, savings bank, credit union, or association 139
of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or 140
credit unions, who has been appointed and commissioned by the 141
secretary of state pursuant to sections 4973.17 to 4973.22 of 142
the Revised Code, and who has been awarded a certificate by the 143
executive director of the Ohio peace officer training commission 144
attesting to the person's satisfactory completion of a state, 145
county, municipal, or department of natural resources peace 146
officer basic training program; 147

(22) An investigator, as defined in section 109.541 of the 148
Revised Code, of the bureau of criminal identification and 149
investigation who is commissioned by the superintendent of the 150
bureau as a special agent for the purpose of assisting law 151
enforcement officers or providing emergency assistance to peace 152
officers pursuant to authority granted under that section; 153

(23) A state fire marshal law enforcement officer 154
appointed under section 3737.22 of the Revised Code or a person 155
serving as a state fire marshal law enforcement officer on a 156
permanent basis on or after July 1, 1982, who has been awarded a 157
certificate by the executive director of the Ohio peace officer 158
training commission attesting to the person's satisfactory 159
completion of an approved state, county, municipal, or 160
department of natural resources peace officer basic training 161
program; 162

(24) A gaming agent employed under section 3772.03 of the 163
Revised Code; 164

(25) An employee of the state board of pharmacy designated 165

by the executive director of the board pursuant to section 166
4729.04 of the Revised Code to investigate violations of 167
Chapters 2925., 3715., 3719., 3796., 4729., and 4752. of the 168
Revised Code and rules adopted thereunder. 169

(B) "Undercover drug agent" has the same meaning as in 170
division (B) (2) of section 109.79 of the Revised Code. 171

(C) "Crisis intervention training" means training in the 172
use of interpersonal and communication skills to most 173
effectively and sensitively interview victims of rape. 174

(D) "Missing children" has the same meaning as in section 175
2901.30 of the Revised Code. 176

(E) "Tactical medical professional" means an EMT, EMT- 177
basic, AEMT, EMT-I, paramedic, nurse, or physician who is 178
trained and certified in a nationally recognized tactical 179
medical training program that is equivalent to "tactical combat 180
casualty care" (TCCC) and "tactical emergency medical support" 181
(TEMS) and who functions in the tactical or austere environment 182
while attached to a law enforcement agency of either this state 183
or a political subdivision of this state. 184

(F) "EMT-basic," "EMT-I," and "paramedic" have the same 185
meanings as in section 4765.01 of the Revised Code and "EMT" and 186
"AEMT" have the same meanings as in section 4765.011 of the 187
Revised Code. 188

(G) "Nurse" means any of the following: 189

(1) Any person who is licensed to practice nursing as a 190
registered nurse by the board of nursing; 191

(2) Any certified nurse practitioner, clinical nurse 192
specialist, certified registered nurse anesthetist, or certified 193

nurse-midwife who holds a certificate of authority issued by the 194
board of nursing under Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code; 195

(3) Any person who is licensed to practice nursing as a 196
licensed practical nurse by the board of nursing pursuant to 197
Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code. 198

(H) "Physician" means a person who is licensed pursuant to 199
Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code to practice medicine and 200
surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery. 201

(I) "County correctional officer" has the same meaning as 202
in section 341.41 of the Revised Code. 203

(J) (1) "Fire investigator" means an employee of a fire 204
department charged with investigating fires and explosions who 205
has been authorized, in accordance with sections 737.27 and 206
3737.24 of the Revised Code, to perform the duties of 207
investigating the origin and cause of fires and explosions using 208
the scientific method to investigate elements of the event 209
including the circumstances, actions, persons, means, and 210
motives that resulted in the fire or explosion or the report of 211
a fire or explosion within this state. 212

(2) "Fire investigator" does not include a person who is 213
acting as a fire investigator on behalf of an insurance company 214
or any other privately owned or operated enterprise. 215

(K) "Fire department" means a fire department of the state 216
or an instrumentality of the state or of a municipal 217
corporation, township, joint fire district, or other political 218
subdivision. 219

(L) "At-risk youth" means an individual who is all of the 220
following: 221

(1) Under twenty-one years of age;	222
(2) One of the following:	223
(a) At risk of becoming an abused, neglected, or dependent child, delinquent or unruly child, or juvenile traffic offender;	224 225
(b) An abused, neglected, or dependent child, delinquent or unruly child, or juvenile traffic offender.	226 227
(3) Residing in a state correctional institution, a department of youth services institution, or a residential facility.	228 229 230
(M) "Residential facility" has the same meaning as in section 2151.46 of the Revised Code.	231 232
(N) "Emotional intelligence" means the ability to identify and manage a person's own emotions, as well as the emotions of others, and includes self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management.	233 234 235 236
Sec. 109.7413. The attorney general shall adopt, in accordance with Chapter 119. or pursuant to section 109.74 of the Revised Code, rules governing the training of peace officers on emotional intelligence. The rules shall specify the amount of training necessary for the satisfactory completion of basic training programs at approved peace officer training schools, other than the Ohio peace officer training academy and the time within which a peace officer is required to receive that training, if the peace officer is appointed as a peace officer before receiving that training.	237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246
Sec. 109.79. (A) The Ohio peace officer training commission shall establish and conduct a training school for law enforcement officers of any political subdivision of the state	247 248 249

or of the state public defender's office. The school shall be 250
known as the Ohio peace officer training academy. No bailiff or 251
deputy bailiff of a court of record of this state and no 252
criminal investigator employed by the state public defender 253
shall be permitted to attend the academy for training unless the 254
employing court of the bailiff or deputy bailiff or the state 255
public defender, whichever is applicable, has authorized the 256
bailiff, deputy bailiff, or investigator to attend the academy. 257

The Ohio peace officer training commission shall develop 258
the training program, which shall include courses in both the 259
civil and criminal functions of law enforcement officers, a 260
course in crisis intervention with six or more hours of 261
training, training in the handling of missing children and child 262
abuse and neglect cases, training on emotional intelligence, and 263
training on companion animal encounters and companion animal 264
behavior, and shall establish rules governing qualifications for 265
admission to the academy. The commission may require competitive 266
examinations to determine fitness of prospective trainees, so 267
long as the examinations or other criteria for admission to the 268
academy are consistent with the provisions of Chapter 124. of 269
the Revised Code. 270

The Ohio peace officer training commission shall determine 271
tuition costs sufficient in the aggregate to pay the costs of 272
operating the academy. Tuition paid by a political subdivision 273
of the state or by the state public defender's office shall be 274
deposited into the state treasury to the credit of the peace 275
officer training academy fee fund, which is hereby established. 276
The attorney general shall use money in the fund to pay costs 277
associated with operation of the academy. The costs of acquiring 278
and equipping the academy shall be paid from appropriations made 279
by the general assembly to the Ohio peace officer training 280

commission for that purpose, from gifts or grants received for 281
that purpose, or from fees for goods related to the academy. 282

The Ohio peace officer training commission shall create a 283
gaming-related curriculum for gaming agents. The Ohio peace 284
officer training commission shall use money distributed to the 285
Ohio peace officer training academy from the Ohio law 286
enforcement training fund to first support the academy's 287
training programs for gaming agents and gaming-related 288
curriculum. The Ohio peace officer training commission may 289
utilize existing training programs in other states that 290
specialize in training gaming agents. 291

The law enforcement officers, during the period of their 292
training, shall receive compensation as determined by the 293
political subdivision that sponsors them or, if the officer is a 294
criminal investigator employed by the state public defender, as 295
determined by the state public defender. The political 296
subdivision may pay the tuition costs of the law enforcement 297
officers they sponsor and the state public defender may pay the 298
tuition costs of criminal investigators of that office who 299
attend the academy. 300

If trainee vacancies exist, the academy may train and 301
issue certificates of satisfactory completion to peace officers 302
who are employed by a campus police department pursuant to 303
section 1713.50 of the Revised Code, by a qualified nonprofit 304
corporation police department pursuant to section 1702.80 of the 305
Revised Code, or by a railroad company, who are amusement park 306
police officers appointed and commissioned by a judge of the 307
appropriate municipal court or county court pursuant to section 308
4973.17 of the Revised Code, or who are bank, savings and loan 309
association, savings bank, credit union, or association of 310

banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or credit 311
unions, or hospital police officers appointed and commissioned 312
by the secretary of state pursuant to sections 4973.17 to 313
4973.22 of the Revised Code, provided that no such officer shall 314
be trained at the academy unless the officer meets the 315
qualifications established for admission to the academy and the 316
qualified nonprofit corporation police department; bank, savings 317
and loan association, savings bank, credit union, or association 318
of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or 319
credit unions; railroad company; hospital; or amusement park or 320
the private college or university that established the campus 321
police department prepays the entire cost of the training. A 322
qualified nonprofit corporation police department; bank, savings 323
and loan association, savings bank, credit union, or association 324
of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or 325
credit unions; railroad company; hospital; or amusement park or 326
a private college or university that has established a campus 327
police department is not entitled to reimbursement from the 328
state for any amount paid for the cost of training the bank, 329
savings and loan association, savings bank, credit union, or 330
association of banks, savings and loan associations, savings 331
banks, or credit unions peace officers; the railroad company's 332
peace officers; or the peace officers of the qualified nonprofit 333
corporation police department, campus police department, 334
hospital, or amusement park. 335

The academy shall permit investigators employed by the 336
state medical board to take selected courses that the board 337
determines are consistent with its responsibilities for initial 338
and continuing training of investigators as required under 339
sections 4730.26 and 4731.05 of the Revised Code. The board 340
shall pay the entire cost of training that investigators receive 341

at the academy. 342

The academy shall permit tactical medical professionals 343
and fire investigators to attend training courses at the academy 344
that are designed to qualify the professionals and investigators 345
to carry firearms while on duty under sections 109.771 and 346
109.774 of the Revised Code and that provide training comparable 347
to training mandated under the rules required by division (A) of 348
section 109.748 and division (A) of section 109.7481 of the 349
Revised Code. The executive director of the Ohio peace officer 350
training commission may certify tactical medical professionals 351
and fire investigators who satisfactorily complete the training 352
courses. The law enforcement agency served by a tactical medical 353
professional or the political subdivision served by a fire 354
investigator who attends the academy may pay the tuition costs 355
of the professional or investigator. 356

The academy shall permit county correctional officers to 357
attend training courses at the academy that are designed to 358
qualify the county correctional officers to carry firearms while 359
on duty under section 109.772 of the Revised Code and that 360
provide training mandated under the rules required by section 361
109.773 of the Revised Code. The executive director of the Ohio 362
peace officer training commission may certify county 363
correctional officers who satisfactorily complete the training 364
courses. The county jail, county workhouse, minimum security 365
jail, joint city and county workhouse, municipal-county 366
correctional center, multicounty-municipal correctional center, 367
municipal-county jail or workhouse, or multicounty-municipal 368
jail or workhouse served by the county correctional officer who 369
attends the academy may pay the tuition costs of the county 370
correctional officer. 371

(B) As used in this section:	372
(1) "Law enforcement officers" include any undercover drug agent, any bailiff or deputy bailiff of a court of record, and any criminal investigator who is employed by the state public defender.	373 374 375 376
(2) "Undercover drug agent" means any person who:	377
(a) Is employed by a county, township, or municipal corporation for the purposes set forth in division (B)(2)(b) of this section but who is not an employee of a county sheriff's department, of a township constable, or of the police department of a municipal corporation or township;	378 379 380 381 382
(b) In the course of the person's employment by a county, township, or municipal corporation, investigates and gathers information pertaining to persons who are suspected of violating Chapter 2925. or 3719. of the Revised Code, and generally does not wear a uniform in the performance of the person's duties.	383 384 385 386 387
(3) "Crisis intervention training" has the same meaning as in section 109.71 of the Revised Code.	388 389
(4) "Missing children" has the same meaning as in section 2901.30 of the Revised Code.	390 391
(5) "Companion animal" has the same meaning as in section 959.131 of the Revised Code.	392 393
Section 2. That existing sections 109.71 and 109.79 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	394 395