

SB 16 POLICE INTERACTION INSTRUCTION
INTERESTED PARTY TESTIMONY
9-16-20

Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have some comments and suggestions about SB 16.

I think the goal of having peace officers and citizens better informed on rights, responsibilities, and other aspects of their interactions, for the purpose of a more successful interaction, is a valuable goal.

As I read the bill then the sponsor and four proponent testimonies, I wondered about adding tasks to the the state and local boards of education and the department of public safety. Funding for public schools and for the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy has been cut in previous years and now the entire country is in an economic crisis due to the pandemic.

Some of the proponents said they were already doing training of the kind proposed by SB 16. Perhaps a model curriculum designed by the state board of education, the department of public safety, and others could then be used by various groups such as ACLU, driver-training schools, local law enforcement departments, etc.

The existing training described by witnesses illustrates creativity in finding ways and places to provide this training.

I don't know yet how the governor's new Ohio Traffic Safety Council will operate. I'm hoping it will become the umbrella and coordinating body for sub-groups focusing on specific areas of traffic safety. Being an 18-year advocate for restrictions on the dangerous, unnecessary behavior of driving under the influence of electronics, of course that is the first area that comes to my mind as a Council sub-group. Active transportation, mass transit, graduated driver licensing are also topics for sub-groups. In my opinion, citizen/law enforcement interaction (which is probably most commonly occurring in traffic stops) would be an excellent topic for a Council sub-group.

This sub-group could bring knowledge and perspectives from a variety of sources to decide, for instance, who should assist the board of education and public safety department in developing the curriculum. Then the members could brainstorm additional creative ways and places to provide the curriculum.

I agree with using the *Ohio Digest of Motor Vehicle Laws*, with at least a bullet-pointed summary of the curriculum **and** this would be a good place to inform the public of where they can get the training. The video screen in the deputy registrar facilities would be another good way to inform the public that this training is available. Public libraries, when we are allowed in again safely, would be an excellent place to "advertise"--as well as hold--the training.

I suggest the goals of this bill be met, but in ways that don't put so much of the burden on the state board of education and the public safety department, and that reach more than high school and driving students.

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