

HB 110 APPROPRIATIONS
§701.70(B) LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING FUNDING STUDY COMMISSION
JUNE 2, 2021
PROPONENT

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chairman Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, I want to add my support for creating a Law Enforcement Training Funding Study Commission.

Law enforcement is a complex job with significant consequences. The public has very high expectations for the behavior of peace officers and those expectations continue to grow, resulting in more and more suggestions or requirements for more training.

Training costs money to develop good curriculum; hire good instructors; provide facilities, equipment, and informational materials; travel to and from the training site; and possible overtime pay to the officer getting training and/or to a colleague for filling in while at the officer is at training.

I have been educating myself a little on this issue and have learned that grants are only a small part of the solution to training funding. Not all agencies meet the grant eligibility requirements, grants are (often? always?) reimbursements and small agencies don't always have the money to spend up front and wait for reimbursement, and the grants themselves are dependent on a revenue source of some kind. Furthermore, grants are (sometimes? often? always?) for a one-time expense. Training is not a one-time expense.

The need for a sustainable funding source is great. The need for new ideas on how to create one is great. The idea for a study commission seems to be an obvious first step.

I was surprised, however, that the proposed membership does not include someone from the Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission and/or the Executive Director of the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy. It seems like members representing at least one municipal training academy could provide a useful different perspective. And, a member of the public without a law enforcement background, perhaps someone affiliated with a non-profit organization that has been successful in finding creative new revenue sources, could provide yet another useful different perspective.

A related funding topic that doesn't seem to fit into this proposed study is funding for resources for the increasing amounts of data the public wants peace officers to collect and report. Data collection, analysis, and reporting takes either manpower or the assistance of technology, or both. These also cost money. Agencies can use the Department of Public Safety's Ohio Law Enforcement Information System (or, soon, its successor system) at no charge. This is for citations and crash reports. The public is now also wanting data on all traffic stops, not just those resulting in a citation or summons.

Thank you for considering my views on this section of HB 110.

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