



**OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, INC.**

**HB 132  
Letter of Support**

Representative Jones, Representative Hillyer and Senator Hoagland. My name is Bruce Pijanowski, the Chief of Police for the City of Delaware representing the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. OACP has been made aware that you recently introduced HB 132, designed to modify the salvage title process for tow and salvage operators (the former HB 345 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly.) Having worked closely and collaboratively with Rep. Jones, members of the tow and salvage industry and others on HB 345 we are happy to stand in support of this legislation.

It is well known that there are a percentage of vehicles impounded and towed that are then abandoned and remain unclaimed by their owners. This leaves tow yards holding property that they cannot dispose of due to title issues. This legislation as written streamlines the tow companies' ability to get a salvage title and dispose of these vehicles, many of which result from law enforcement impounds. Current law requires that tow and salvage yard operators request that local law enforcement file for the salvage title, which has resulted in a lag or failure to be able to convert titles. The provisions in the proposed legislation streamlines the process for both law enforcement and tow companies, while maintaining the duty to attempt to return towed and impounded motor vehicles to their rightful owners. There is consistency built into the procedure that will ensure that tow and salvage companies can adequately manage their business, with safeguards regarding vehicles or property being held by law enforcement agencies as evidence.

OACP also supports the provisions of HB 132 that apply to motor vehicle dealers, repair facilities and storage facilities. As with the tow and salvage yards, it permits those entities to manage their business while providing measures to protect the property rights of the owners of otherwise abandoned vehicles.

Please feel free to refer to our support as you move forward with introducing this legislation and let me know if we can provide any other assistance.

Bruce Pijanowski  
Chief of Police, City of Delaware  
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Legislative Chair