



Ohio Senate
1st District

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SB 37 Sponsor Testimony
Chief of Police Training Course
Tuesday February 14, 2017

Chairman Uecker, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the State and Local Government Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Senate Bill 37. This piece of legislation has been a work in progress for the last few years and I am very excited to have the opportunity to speak on it today. If you recall, this was Senate Bill 322 from the 131st General Assembly, which passed out of committee and the full Senate unanimously.

The main purpose of the legislation is to create an opportunity for local police chiefs to get the training that they need to be effective and dynamic leaders. The legislation will require the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) to develop and conduct a chief of police training course for newly appointed chiefs of police in villages, cities, and townships.

The 40-hour chief of police training course will be offered at least semi-annually through OPOTC. Beginning on January 1, 2018, a newly appointed chief of police would be required to attend, within six months of their appointment, the training course offered by OPOTC. The course specifically provides for diversity training with an emphasis on historical perspectives and community-police relations. The cost and expenses of attending the training will be paid for by the local jurisdictions, while the Attorney General's office will cover the cost of the training.

Thank you for your time today, and I am happy to answer any questions.