

72nd House District

Coshocton County
Perry County
Licking County

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 466-2500
Rep72@ohiohouse.gov



Committees

Infrastructure and Rural
Development
Transportation and Public Safety
Primary and Secondary Education

Kevin D. Miller
State Representative

HB 605 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, good afternoon and thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony for HB 605, which would allow the Ohio National Guard's Advocates, or JAG, to provide additional legal services to state law enforcement officers.

This legislation is an effort to provide additional opportunities for Ohio National Guard Judge Advocates to serve their community, while also providing an excellent resource of support for our State's Law Enforcement Officers and their families. The language is entirely permissive and would call on the expansion of these services only when the JAG corps have an excess in their workload capacity. The Adjutant General is the only person who would be granted the authority to authorize a judge advocate to provide this assistance to those who qualify.

It is important to note that only law enforcement officials that are employed by the state would be eligible to receive these services. The legislation, through the amendment we have brought forward today, is drafted to specifically include investigative personnel of BCI, ODNR law

enforcement agents, state forest-fire investigators, natural resource officers, wildlife officers and members of the State Highway Patrol, both troopers and police officers.

To be clear, the legal assistance that is eligible to be provided is strictly civil legal assistance not related to the officer's official duties. To provide a few examples, the legislation would allow JAG corps to provide legal assistance in estate planning, wills, consumer law, notary services, etc.

This legislation provides our first responders greater access to legal assistance while also providing our JAG corps the opportunity to hone their skills and efficiency. Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony, I am more than happy to field any questions.