



Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
House Bill 354 – Interested Party Testimony
House Finance Committee

Chair Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide written interested party testimony today on House Bill 354.

My name is Heinz von Eckartsberg. I am the retired Chief of Police in Dublin, Ohio and most recently, the assistant superintendent of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. I am testifying today on behalf of the membership of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police.

We are supportive of the collaborative efforts being undertaken to ensure that recreational marijuana is implemented safely and efficiently in Ohio. As you continue to review various provisions as it relates to implementation, we respectfully submit the following recommendations for this bill:

1. Create a stable, consistent fund for law enforcement's Continuing Professional Training (\$40 million per FY).

One of the top priorities of OACP is to identify and secure a more permanent funding source for Continuing Professional Training (CPT) for Ohio law enforcement. According to Ohio Revised Code section 109.803 (A)(1), officers are not required to participate in CPT if funding is unavailable. As a result, any lack of funding in the future would likely result in officers not receiving training to keep them updated with changes to the law and current trends. Our membership is grateful that the General Assembly and Governor DeWine are reviewing this avenue to secure those funds and we respectfully request that a specific allocation of \$40 million per fiscal year, be administered by the Attorney General and included in the final version of this bill to support CPT for Ohio law enforcement.

2. Limit the number of marijuana plants per household

Complete removal of the home grow provisions enacted by State Issue 2 would be the preferred course of action for law enforcement to help us combat black market marijuana trafficking. As you know, under Issue 2 an adult use consumer can cultivate, grow, and possess up to six plants at a time at the primary residence, and when there are two or more residents who are 21 or older, the maximum number is 12 plants at that primary

residence. R.C. 3780.29(A)(1). R.C. 3780.29(A)(3) allows the resident-grower to transfer “up to six cannabis plants to an adult use consumer as long as the transfer is without remuneration and not advertised or promoted to the public.”

This seems to impose relatively small limits on home grows of up to 6 or 12 plants. Most voters might be surprised, however, to learn that plants grown outdoors can produce up to 17.5 ounces of cannabis per plant – more than one pound per plant.

Barring the removal of home grow entirely, we are asking that the law be amended to allow home grow of a smaller number of plants, and only in a secured area that is indoors (i.e. not an outdoor greenhouse).

Thank you again for the opportunity to share testimony on behalf of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police.