



OHIO HOUSE HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE
June 21, 2023

Written Proponent Testimony
Senate Bill 53

Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Ohio House Homeland Security Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony regarding our support for Senate Bill 53, which would lower the age for an original appointment of a police officer.

The Ohio Municipal League represents more than 730 cities and villages. The vast majority of these municipalities have their own police departments.

In a recent survey of OML-member communities, recruitment and retention was one of the top challenges our members said they were currently facing – with many of them specifically citing problems with finding qualified individuals to serve as police officers.

By permissively lowering the age someone can become a police officer, Ohio municipalities will have the option to recruit and hire these newly qualified young adults, strengthening their police force while still allowing them with flexibility at the local level to determine how to best develop their new officers.

Senate Bill 53 is an optional tool to help communities have and maintain an adequate police force.

We appreciate the conversation around this topic and thank Senators Roegner and Reynolds for sponsoring this legislation and responding to the needs of our municipal safety forces.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for Senate Bill 53 on behalf of the member of the Ohio Municipal League, and please feel free to reach out to us on this matter or any other issue with which we can be of assistance in the future.

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League