

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2021-2022**

**H. B. No. 325**

**Representative Wiggam**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Gross, Hall, Riedel, Jordan, Stewart, Seitz, Stoltzfus, Zeltwanger, Abrams, Grendell, Cross, Merrin, Koehler, Edwards, Loychik, Kick, Click, Cutrona, Hoops, Swearingen, LaRe, Powell, Creech, Dean, Holmes, Stephens, Bird, Ginter, Brinkman, McClain, Manchester, Jones, Carruthers, Schmidt, Vitale, Pavliga, Johnson, Lampton, Ferguson, Householder, Carfagna, Richardson, Wilkin, Baldrige, John, Plummer, White**



**A BILL**

To amend section 3761.16 and to enact section 1  
5502.411 of the Revised Code regarding a 2  
political subdivision's emergency powers when 3  
suppressing a riot, mob, or potential riot or 4  
mob and the preservation of rights regarding 5  
firearms during an emergency. 6

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 3761.16 be amended and section 7  
5502.411 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 8

**Sec. 3761.16.** The chief administrative officer of a 9  
political subdivision with police powers, when engaged in 10  
suppressing a riot or a mob or when there is a clear and present 11  
danger of a riot or a mob, may cordon off any area or areas 12  
threatened by the riot or the mob and prohibit persons from 13  
entering the cordoned off area or areas except when carrying on 14  
necessary and legitimate pursuits ~~and may prohibit the sale,~~ 15

~~offering for sale, dispensing, or transportation of firearms or~~ 16  
~~other dangerous weapons, ammunition, dynamite, or other~~ 17  
~~dangerous explosives in, to, or from the cordoned off areas.~~ 18

**Sec. 5502.411.** (A) As used in this section: 19

(1) "Ammunition" has the same meaning as in section 20  
2305.401 of the Revised Code. 21

(2) "Concealed handgun license," "deadly weapon," 22  
"firearm," and "valid concealed handgun license" have the same 23  
meanings as in section 2923.11 of the Revised Code. 24

(3) "Licensee" has the same meaning as in section 2923.124 25  
of the Revised Code. 26

(B) The transport, storage, sale, transfer, commerce in, 27  
import and export of, distribution, repair, maintenance, and 28  
manufacture of firearms, ammunition, and related accessories and 29  
components, shooting ranges, and other goods and services 30  
directly related to lawful firearm possession, use, storage, 31  
repair, maintenance, sale, transfer, and training in the use of 32  
firearms, are declared to be life-sustaining "essential" 33  
businesses and services for the purposes of safety and security 34  
in times of declared emergency or any other statutorily 35  
authorized response to any disaster, war, act of terrorism, 36  
riot, civil disorder, public health crisis, or emergency of 37  
whatever kind or nature. 38

(C) Except as provided in this section, no state agency, 39  
political subdivision, or elected or appointed official or 40  
employee of this state or any political subdivision may, under 41  
any governmental authority or color of law exercised as part of 42  
any statutorily authorized response to any disaster, war, act of 43  
terrorism, riot, civil disorder, public health crisis, or 44

<u>emergency of whatever kind or nature, do any of the following:</u>	45
<u>(1) Prohibit, regulate, or curtail the otherwise lawful</u>	46
<u>possession, carrying, display, sale, transportation, transfer,</u>	47
<u>defensive use, or other lawful use of any of the following:</u>	48
<u>(a) Any firearm, including any component or accessory of a</u>	49
<u>firearm;</u>	50
<u>(b) Any ammunition, including any component or accessory</u>	51
<u>of ammunition;</u>	52
<u>(c) Any ammunition-reloading equipment, component, or</u>	53
<u>supplies;</u>	54
<u>(d) Any deadly weapon.</u>	55
<u>(2) Require registration of firearm owners, of any</u>	56
<u>firearms, including any component or accessory of a firearm, or</u>	57
<u>of any ammunition, including any component or accessory of</u>	58
<u>ammunition;</u>	59
<u>(3) Seize, commandeer, or confiscate in any manner, any of</u>	60
<u>the following items that are privately owned and that are</u>	61
<u>possessed, carried, displayed, sold, transferred, transported,</u>	62
<u>stored, or used in connection with otherwise lawful conduct:</u>	63
<u>(a) Any firearm, including any component or accessory of a</u>	64
<u>firearm;</u>	65
<u>(b) Any ammunition, including any component or accessory</u>	66
<u>of ammunition;</u>	67
<u>(c) Any ammunition-reloading equipment, component, or</u>	68
<u>supplies;</u>	69
<u>(d) Any deadly weapon.</u>	70
<u>(4) Suspend or revoke a valid concealed handgun license,</u>	71

except as expressly authorized in Chapter 2923. of the Revised Code; 72  
73

(5) Refuse to accept or process an application for a concealed handgun license or for renewal of a concealed handgun license, provided the application for the license has been properly completed and submitted in accordance with section 2923.125 or 2923.1213 of the Revised Code and the application for the renewal has been properly completed and submitted in accordance with section 2923.125 of the Revised Code; 74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80

(6) Prohibit, suspend, or limit the business operations of any entity engaged in the lawful selling or servicing of any firearms or ammunition, including any components or accessories of firearms or ammunition, any ammunition-reloading equipment, component, or supplies, or any deadly weapons; 81  
82  
83  
84  
85

(7) Prohibit, suspend, or limit the business operations of any indoor or outdoor shooting range, whether located on state lands or on land other than state lands, or of any entity engaged in providing firearms safety, firearms training, firearms license qualification or requalification, firearms safety instructor courses, or any similar class, course, or program; 86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92

(8) Place restrictions or quantity limitations on any entity regarding the lawful sale or servicing of any of the following: 93  
94  
95

(a) Any firearm, including any component or accessory of a firearm; 96  
97

(b) Any ammunition, including any component or accessory of ammunition; 98  
99

(c) Any ammunition-reloading equipment, component, or 100

<u>supplies;</u>	101
<u>(d) Any deadly weapon.</u>	102
<u>(9) Suspend, restrict, or prohibit otherwise lawful</u>	103
<u>hunting, fishing, or trapping activities or business entities</u>	104
<u>conducting or directly facilitating lawful hunting, trapping, or</u>	105
<u>fishing activities, whether conducted on state lands and waters</u>	106
<u>or on land and waters other than state lands and waters.</u>	107
<u>(D) (1) If a concealed handgun license has been issued to a</u>	108
<u>licensee under either section 2923.125 or 2923.1213 of the</u>	109
<u>Revised Code, if the governor issues an executive order</u>	110
<u>declaring an emergency, and if the date that the valid and</u>	111
<u>existing license would or is scheduled to expire falls within</u>	112
<u>the period of emergency declared by the governor's executive</u>	113
<u>order or the thirty days immediately preceding the date of that</u>	114
<u>declaration, then, notwithstanding the date of scheduled</u>	115
<u>expiration, the license is automatically extended throughout the</u>	116
<u>duration of the period of the emergency plus an additional</u>	117
<u>ninety days. If, during the period of the emergency or during</u>	118
<u>the additional ninety days, a licensee issued a license under</u>	119
<u>section 2923.125 of the Revised Code submits an application for</u>	120
<u>renewal of the license or schedules an appointment with the</u>	121
<u>issuing authority or another authority authorized to renew the</u>	122
<u>license, the license is further automatically extended until the</u>	123
<u>renewal application is accepted and fully processed.</u>	124
<u>(2) If division (D) (1) of this section applies with</u>	125
<u>respect to a concealed handgun license, during the extension</u>	126
<u>period described in that division that is applicable to that</u>	127
<u>license, all of the following apply:</u>	128
<u>(a) The license shall be valid for all purposes under the</u>	129

laws of this state and the person to whom the license was issued 130  
shall be considered for all purposes under the laws of this 131  
state to be the holder of a valid license to carry a concealed 132  
handgun, and the license shall be valid for all purposes under 133  
section 2923.128 of the Revised Code; 134

(b) The license remains subject to the operation of 135  
section 2923.128 of the Revised Code during the extended period 136  
of the license and at any other time; 137

(c) Except for the date of scheduled expiration, all other 138  
conditions and restrictions otherwise applicable to the license 139  
and the license holder continue to apply during the extended 140  
period of the license and at any other time. 141

(E) Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law, 142  
including sections 5502.30 and 5502.35 of the Revised Code: 143

(1) A person, group, or entity adversely affected by any 144  
manner of law, ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution, 145  
practice, or other action enacted or enforced in violation of 146  
this section may file an action for damages, injunctive relief, 147  
declaratory relief, or other appropriate redress in the court of 148  
common pleas of the county in which the aggrieved person resides 149  
or the group or entity is located, or in which the violation 150  
occurred. 151

(2) In an action brought under authority of division (E) 152  
(1) of this section: 153

(a) A person, group, or entity adversely affected by any 154  
manner of law, ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution, 155  
practice, or other action enacted or enforced by any state 156  
agency, any political subdivision, or any elected or appointed 157  
official or employee of the state or of a political subdivision 158

in conflict with this section may bring a civil action against 159  
the state agency, political subdivision, or elected or appointed 160  
official or employee of the state or of the political 161  
subdivision seeking damages, declaratory relief, injunctive 162  
relief, or a combination of those remedies. Any damages awarded 163  
shall be awarded against, and paid by, the state, the agency, or 164  
the political subdivision. In addition to any actual damages 165  
awarded against the state, the agency, or the political 166  
subdivision and any other relief provided with respect to such 167  
an action, the court shall award reasonable expenses to any 168  
person, group, or entity that brings the action, to be paid by 169  
the state, agency, or political subdivision, if either of the 170  
following applies: 171

(i) The person, group, or entity prevails in a challenge 172  
to the law, ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution, practice, 173  
or action as being in conflict with this section. 174

(ii) The law, ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution, 175  
practice, or action or the manner of its enforcement is repealed 176  
or rescinded after the civil action was filed but prior to a 177  
final court determination of the action. 178

(b) In addition to any other remedy available at law or in 179  
equity, a person, group, or entity aggrieved by the seizure or 180  
confiscation, in violation of this section, of one or more items 181  
listed in division (C) (3) of this section may apply to the court 182  
of common pleas of the county in which the item or items were 183  
seized or confiscated for the immediate return of the item or 184  
items. Except as otherwise provided in division (E) (2) (a) of 185  
this section, upon receipt of the application and a 186  
determination by the court that the seizure or confiscation of 187  
the item or items was in violation of this section, the court 188

shall order the immediate return of the item or items by the 189  
seizing or confiscating governmental office and that office's 190  
employed officials. If a court orders the return of the seized 191  
or confiscated item or items under this division and the item or 192  
items are not returned in accordance with the order, the 193  
aggrieved party may claim reasonable costs and attorney fees for 194  
the loss and, the cost of reclaiming the item or items, or the 195  
cost of any damages to the item or items. 196

(F) The provisions contained in the amendments to section 197  
3761.16 of the Revised Code and the enactment of this section by 198  
\_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_ of the 134th general assembly are severable, as 199  
provided in section 1.50 of the Revised Code. In particular, it 200  
is the intent of the general assembly that any invalidity or 201  
potential invalidity of a provision contained in those 202  
amendments or this section is not to impair the immediate and 203  
continuing enforceability of the remaining provisions. 204

**Section 2.** That existing section 3761.16 of the Revised 205  
Code is hereby repealed. 206