

As Introduced

**135th General Assembly
Regular Session
2023-2024**

S. B. No. 53

Senators Reynolds, Roegner

A BILL

To amend section 124.41 of the Revised Code to 1
lower the minimum age for an original 2
appointment as a police officer from twenty-one 3
to eighteen years of age. 4

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

Section 1. That section 124.41 of the Revised Code be 5
amended to read as follows: 6

Sec. 124.41. No person shall be eligible to receive an 7
original appointment to a police department, as a police 8
officer, subject to the civil service laws of this state, unless 9
the person has reached the age of ~~twenty-one~~ eighteen and has, 10
not more than one hundred twenty days prior to the date of such 11
appointment, passed a physical examination, given by a licensed 12
physician, a physician assistant, a clinical nurse specialist, a 13
certified nurse practitioner, or a certified nurse-midwife, 14
certifying that the applicant is free of cardiovascular and 15
pulmonary diseases, and showing that the applicant meets the 16
physical requirements necessary to perform the duties of a 17
police officer as established by the civil service commission 18
having jurisdiction over the appointment. The appointing 19

authority shall, prior to making any such appointment, file with 20
the Ohio police and fire pension fund a copy of the report or 21
findings of the licensed physician, physician assistant, 22
clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse practitioner, or 23
certified nurse-midwife. The professional fee for such physical 24
examination shall be paid by the civil service commission. 25
Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person is 26
eligible to receive an original appointment when the person is 27
thirty-five years of age or older, and no person can be declared 28
disqualified as over age prior to that time. The maximum age 29
limitation established by this section does not apply to a city 30
in which an ordinance establishes a different maximum age 31
limitation for an original appointment to the police department 32
or to a civil service township in which a resolution adopted by 33
the board of trustees of the township establishes a different 34
maximum age limitation for an original appointment to the police 35
department. 36

Nothing in this section shall prevent a municipal 37
corporation or a civil service township from establishing a 38
police cadet program and employing persons as police cadets at 39
age eighteen for the purposes of training persons to become 40
police officers. The board of trustees of a civil service 41
township may establish by resolution such a cadet program. A 42
person participating in a municipal or township police cadet 43
program shall not be permitted to carry or use any firearm in 44
the performance of the person's duties, except that the person 45
may be taught the proper use of firearms as part of the person's 46
training. 47

Section 2. That existing section 124.41 of the Revised 48
Code is hereby repealed. 49