

**As Reported by the Senate Government Oversight Committee**

**135th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2023-2024**

**S. B. No. 53**

**Senators Reynolds, Roegner**

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**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