



## **H.B. 545**

124th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Setzer, Husted, White**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Provides for the training of special police officers of certain airports.
- Designates those airport special police officers as law enforcement officers for purposes of all sections of the Revised Code that refer to the term "law enforcement officers."

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

The bill adds to the list of the various classes of officers included in the definition of a "peace officer" for purposes of the Peace Officer Training Law a special police officer who is employed by an airport that (1) has scheduled operations as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations and (2) is required to be under a security program and is governed by aviation security rules of the Transportation Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations (sec. 109.71(A)(19)). It appears that this change qualifies these airport special police officers to (a) attend peace officer training schools approved by the Executive Director of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (Commission) and administered by the state, counties, municipal corporations, or the Department of Natural Resources and (b) receive a certificate from the Executive Director attesting to satisfactory completion of a basic training program at an approved school (sec. 109.75(A) and (D), not in the bill). The bill, however, *does not require* that an airport special police officer be awarded a certificate by the Executive Director attesting to the officer's satisfactory completion of an approved peace officer basic training program, as a condition of the officer's original appointment on a permanent basis, or continued appointment on a temporary basis or for a probationary term, as an airport special police officer (see **COMMENT**) (sec. 109.77(B), not in the bill).

In addition, the bill adds these airport special police officers to the list of the various classes of officers included in the definition of a "law enforcement

officer" that is used throughout the entire Revised Code (sec. 2901.01(A)(11)(m)). One effect of this change *may be or may not be* airport special police officers to attend the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy established by the Commission; although the statute pertaining to the Academy refers to "law enforcement officers," it does so in a narrow sense—law enforcement officers *of political subdivisions*—and, thus, unless the airports involved are denoted political subdivisions by statute, these special police officers would not qualify to attend the Academy (sec. 109.79, not in the bill).

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## COMMENT

In contrast current law *requires*, for example, that a special police officer employed by a port authority be awarded a certificate by the Executive Director attesting to the officer's satisfactory completion of an approved peace officer basic training program, as a condition to the officer's original appointment on a permanent basis, or continued appointment on a temporary basis or for a probationary term, as a port authority special police officer (sec. 101.77(B)(1)(h) and (B)(2)(g), not in the bill).

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	03-28-02	p. 1647

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