



**S.B. 230**

124th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

Sen. Hagan

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Specifically permits a county court judge or municipal court judge, on the application of a state, county, township, or independent agricultural society, of an industrial association, or of any other association or meeting of citizens for the purpose of promoting social or literary intercourse, to appoint special constables *to protect persons and property*.
- Removes language that restricts a judge's appointment of such special constables to assist in keeping the peace *during the time when the above mentioned society or assembly is holding its annual fair or meeting*, thereby permitting a judge to appoint such special constables at other times.

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**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

*Special constables for agricultural societies, industrial associations, or other associations or meetings of citizens for the purpose of promoting social or literary intercourse*

*Existing law*

Under existing law, upon the application of a state, county, township, or independent agricultural society, upon the application of an industrial association, or upon the application of any other association or meeting of citizens for the purpose of promoting social or literary intercourse, a judge of a county court or judge of a municipal court having jurisdiction may appoint a suitable number of special constables to assist in keeping the peace during the time when a society or assembly described above is holding its annual fair or meeting. The judge is required to make an entry in the docket of the number and names of all persons

appointed as special constables pursuant to this section. (R.C. 1711.35, first paragraph.)

Constables appointed as described above have all the power of constables to suppress riots, disturbances, and breaches of the peace. A constable may arrest any person the constable witnesses committing a violation of any law of the state and may pursue and arrest any person fleeing from justice in any part of the state. Constables may apprehend any person in the act of committing an offense based on reasonable information and supported by affidavit. They may procure process for the arrest of any person charged with a breach of the peace and bring them before a competent authority, and they may enforce all laws for the preservation of order. (R.C. 1711.35, second paragraph.)

**Operation of the bill**

The bill continues to permit a judge of a county court or judge of a municipal court having jurisdiction, upon proper application of the societies, associations, or meetings of citizens described in existing law above, to appoint a suitable number of special constables to assist in keeping the peace, but the bill removes the requirement that the appointment of the constables be made only to assist in keeping the peace during the time when one of the above mentioned organizations is holding its annual fair or meeting.

The bill also specifically permits a judge of a county court or judge of a municipal court having jurisdiction, upon proper application by an above described society, association, or meeting of citizens, to appoint a suitable number of special constables to protect persons and property. The authority of constables appointed to "protect persons and property" is identical to the authority of constables appointed to "assist in keeping the peace." (R.C. 1711.35.)

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**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-06-02	p. 1427

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