



**H.B. 145**

126th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Seaver, D. Evans, Reinhard, C. Evans, Setzer, Raga, Wolpert, Flowers, Reidelbach**

---

**BILL SUMMARY**

- Gives townships authority to confer certain investigative and arrest powers upon officers in their fire departments.

---

**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

The bill permits a board of township trustees to confer certain investigative powers upon any officer in the fire department of the township or township fire district and to require the officer to report to the board on his or her discharge of the investigative powers. Those officers will have the power and the duty to be present at all fires in the township or fire district, to investigate the cause of those fires, to examine witnesses, to compel their attendance and the production of books and papers (i.e., subpoena and subpoena duces tecum authority), and to perform all other acts necessary to the effective discharge of the latter duties. The officers also may administer oaths, and make warrantless arrests under the Peace Officer Arrest Authority Law, in the discharge of the latter duties.<sup>1</sup> And, they may enter for examination purposes any building or other structure in the township or fire district that, in their opinion, is in danger from fire. (R.C. 505.382, 2935.01(B), and 2935.03(A)(4).)

---

<sup>1</sup> *The warrantless arrest authority conferred by the bill is to arrest and detain, until a warrant can be obtained, a person found violating within the township or township fire district either an Ohio law or a township resolution that relates to the officer's investigative duties--for example, a violation of the statute prohibiting arson or aggravated arson. Also, an officer, the same as any citizen, could arrest without a warrant another person whom the officer has reasonable cause to believe is guilty of a felony and detain the other person until a warrant can be obtained (R.C. 2935.04--not in the bill).*

---

## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	03-22-05	pp. 352-353

h0145-i-126.doc/kl

