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H.B. 23*
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Roemer and Williams

Sarah A. Maki, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Creates the Escaped Convict Alert Program.
- Provides that, upon the application of a prior parent company of a bank, the Secretary of State may appoint and commission police officers for the bank that the prior parent company of the bank previously had a controlling interest in.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Escaped Convict Alert Program

The bill creates the Escaped Convict Alert Program to aid in the identification and location of any person who was convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony offense, or was indicted or otherwise charged with the commission of a felony offense, who has escaped from a jail, workhouse, or correctional institution (but not from a community-based correctional facility or halfway house) while incarcerated for or awaiting adjudication of that felony offense.¹

A law enforcement agency that receives a notice of escape regarding a person who meets the above listed offense criteria may activate the Escaped Convict Alert Program for the surrounding area or region of the jail, workhouse, or correctional institution from which the person has escaped.² "Law enforcement agency" means an organization or unit made up of law enforcement officers.³

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 5502.54(B)(1).

² R.C. 5502.54(B)(2).

³ R.C. 5502.54(A).

The Escaped Convict Alert Program does not prevent the activation of a local or regional alert program that may impose different criteria for the activation of a local or regional alert.⁴ Nothing in the Escaped Convict Alert Program is to be construed to authorize the use of the federal emergency alert system unless otherwise authorized by federal law.⁵

Any radio broadcast station, television broadcast station, or cable system participating in the Escaped Convict Alert Program or in any local or regional alert program, and any director, officer, employee, or agent of any station or system participating in either type of alert program, is not liable to any person for damages for any loss allegedly caused by or resulting from the station's or system's broadcast or cablecast of, or failure to broadcast or cablecast, any information pursuant to the Escaped Convict Alert Program or the local or regional alert program.⁶

Banking police officers

The bill provides that upon the application of any "prior parent company of a bank" (a defined term, see below), the Secretary of State may appoint and commission any persons that the prior parent company of a bank designates, or as many of those persons as the Secretary of State deems proper, to act as police officers for and on the premises of the bank, savings and loan association, savings bank, credit union, or association of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or credit unions that the prior parent company of the bank previously had a controlling interest in or elsewhere, when directly in the discharge of their duties.⁷

Under continuing law, upon the application of any bank, savings and loan association, savings bank, credit union, or association of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or credit unions in this state, the Secretary of State may appoint and commission any persons that the bank, savings and loan association, savings bank, credit union, or association of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or credit unions designates, or as many of those persons as the Secretary of State considers proper, to act as police officers for and on the premises of that bank, savings and loan association, savings bank, credit union, or association of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or credit unions or elsewhere, when directly in the discharge of their duties.⁸

Under continuing law, police officers appointed by the Secretary of State must be citizens of Ohio and of good character. Police officers who start to perform duties after April 14, 2006, must successfully complete a training program approved by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) and be certified by OPOTC within six months after starting to perform their duties. Police officers must hold office for three years, unless, for good cause shown, their commission is revoked by the Secretary of State, or by the bank, savings and loan association,

⁴ R.C. 5502.54(C).

⁵ R.C. 5502.54(E).

⁶ R.C. 5502.54(D).

⁷ R.C. 4973.17(A)(1)(b).

⁸ R.C. 4973.17(A)(1)(a).

savings bank, credit union, or association of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or credit unions. The bill adds that their commission may also be revoked by the prior parent company of a bank.⁹

Under continuing law, police officers commissioned by the Secretary of State before April 14, 2006, who have not successfully completed a training program approved by OPOTC, and who have not been certified by OPOTC, may be reappointed and recommissioned by the Secretary of State only during the person's continuous employment as a police officer by the institution for which the person was employed on April 14, 2006, or by a successor institution to the institution for which the person was employed on April 14, 2006.¹⁰

The bill defines “**prior parent company of a bank**” as a company that is all of the following:¹¹

- A company that previously had a controlling interest in a bank, savings and loan association, savings bank, credit union, or association of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or credit unions in Ohio;
- A company that has sold, divested, or otherwise dissolved the company's controlling interest in that bank, savings and loan association, savings bank, credit union, or association of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or credit unions in Ohio;
- A company that had persons appointed and commissioned as police officers at that bank, savings and loan association, savings bank, credit union, or association of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or credit unions in Ohio for at least three years prior to the date that the company sold, divested, or otherwise dissolved the company's controlling interest in that bank, savings and loan association, savings bank, credit union, or association of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or credit unions in Ohio.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-27-25
Reported, H. Public Safety	06-18-25
Passed House (97-0)	06-18-25
Reported, S. Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, & Public Safety	--

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⁹ R.C. 4973.17(A)(2).

¹⁰ R.C. 4973.17(A)(3).

¹¹ R.C. 4973.17(A)(5).