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S.B. 308
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Brenner and Gavarone

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) to provide a security detail to the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor-elect, the Lieutenant Governor-elect, and certain eligible candidates at the Governor's direction and by request of the candidate.
- Permits the Governor, at the request of a candidate for statewide elected office, to provide an OSHP security detail to that candidate, if the Governor determines that a security detail is necessary.
- Expands the jurisdiction of the OSHP to provide general assistance to other peace officers on request and not just emergency assistance, as under current law.
- Makes an appropriation of \$10 million from the GRF to the Department of Public Safety's Security, Investigations, and Policing Fund to help fund the security operations required by the bill.
- Declares an emergency.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Ohio State Highway Patrol security for candidates

Subject to the availability of appropriated finds, the bill requires the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) to provide a security detail to the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor-elect, the Lieutenant Governor-elect, and, at the Governor's direction, any eligible candidate upon the request of the candidate.¹

¹ R.C. 5503.02(E)(1)(a).

An “eligible candidate” is a candidate for the Office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor who has been:

- Endorsed by the State Central Committee of a political party;
- Nominated in a primary election as a party candidate, as of the date that the results of the unofficial count conducted by the boards of elections indicate that the candidate received the most votes in the primary election (usually by the end of the night on election day, except in very close races);
- Certified on the office-type ballot at a general election through the filing of a statement of candidacy and nominating petition, in the case of independent candidates; or
- Certified to fill a vacancy on a general election ballot.²

An eligible candidate also can be any candidate for statewide elected office for whom the Governor determines that a security detail is necessary. Continuing law requires OSHP to provide a security detail for the Governor, for any state official at the Governor’s request, and for certain visiting officials.³ In providing this security, the bill specifies that an OSHP trooper has the same arrest powers as any other peace officer in apprehending criminal offenders, regardless of the offense or where the offense occurs. This authority is an expansion of an OSHP trooper’s current law arrest power, which is limited to the authority another peace officer would have to apprehend an offender who is endangering or threatening the security of any person or state property being protected by the OSHP security detail.⁴

OSHP jurisdiction: assistance to other peace officers

The bill expands the OSHP’s jurisdiction to allow OSHP troopers to provide *any* assistance to another peace officer, at the request of that other peace officer, a sheriff, or the chief of police. Under current law, OSHP troopers may only offer *emergency* assistance to another peace officer, and only if:

- There is a threat of imminent physical danger to the peace officer or another person or any other serious emergency situation; and
- Either the other peace officer requests emergency assistance or emergency assistance clearly is required or appropriate for that other peace officer or at that location.⁵

The bill requires the Superintendent of OSHP to establish a policy regarding the manner and procedures by which the OSHP troopers may provide general assistance to other peace

² R.C. 5503.02(E)(1)(a)(ii).

³ R.C. 5503.02(E)(1)(a) and (b).

⁴ R.C. 5503.02(E)(3).

⁵ R.C. 5503.02(D)(2)(a).

officers. A trooper providing general assistance to another peace officer must be given the same compensation, immunity, and other benefits otherwise provided to that trooper.⁶

Finally, the bill specifies that a OSHP trooper may arrest, without a warrant, any driver or vehicle passenger along a state highway whom the trooper has reasonable cause to believe is guilty of a misdemeanor, under the same circumstances and power that any peace officer may make that arrest. Current law grants that authority for a felony violation, but not a misdemeanor.⁷

Appropriation

The bill appropriates \$10 million (\$5 million in FY 2026 and \$5 million in FY 2027) from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Public Safety's Security, Investigations, and Policing Fund to help the security operations required by the bill.⁸ This fund is used by the OSHP to pay the costs of providing security to the Governor, other officials and dignitaries, Capitol Square, and other state property; undertaking major criminal investigations involving state property interests; providing traffic control and security for the Ohio Expositions Commission; and performing nonhighway-related duties at the Ohio State Fair.⁹

Emergency

The bill declares an emergency. Thus, if enacted, its provisions would be effective immediately. The declared reason for the emergency is that the gubernatorial election is approaching in an atmosphere of increased political violence in the U.S.¹⁰

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-28-25

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⁶ R.C. 5503.02(D)(2)(b) and (3).

⁷ R.C. 5503.02(A).

⁸ Sections 3, 4, and 5.

⁹ R.C. 4501.11, not in the bill.

¹⁰ Section 6.