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July 17, 2025

To: Ohio School Commanders, Sheriffs, and Chiefs of Police
From: Thomas Quinlan, Executive Director – OPOTC *TAQ*
Re: New Law Regarding Breaks in Service and Refresher Training Requirements

Dear Law Enforcement Partners,

Ohio's biennial budget bill ([HB 96](#)), made significant changes to the laws governing peace officer certification following a break in service. These changes go into effect in **early October 2025**. Until then, current laws and rules remain in force.

Please note that the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) still reflects the old requirements and cannot be updated until the new law takes effect. In the meantime, please direct your counsel to **R.C. 109.77(M)** for legal or policy questions.

Summary of key changes:

- **End of Academy Requirement for Breaks in Service**

The new law **eliminates** the requirement to attend a basic academy due solely to a break in service for individuals previously certified by OPOTC—regardless of how long the lapse has been. Officers who completed basic training and received certification will **not** lose that certification unless an official decertification event occurs. The certificate becomes inactive and must be renewed prior to performing peace officer duties as outlined below.

- **Mandatory Refresher Training Before Returning to Duty**

Officers who have had a **break in service longer than one year** must complete refresher training **before** resuming **any** peace officer functions. The previous one-year grace period to complete training after reappointment is effectively **repealed**.

- **Less than (<) 1 year, agency may appoint at their discretion**, subject to CPT compliance.
- **1 year to < 4 years out of service: 40 hours** of refresher training mandated.
- **4 years or more: 80 hours** of refresher training mandated.

- **Refresher Course Testing**

To get officers back on the street as quickly as possible, they will be assessed **within the refresher course** itself—**no separate refresher testing** at independent facilities will be required.

- Officers must still meet all statutorily mandated trainings and firearm requalification. Agencies remain responsible for ensuring compliance with these requirements. These obligations are **separate from** the refresher training described above.

- **Curriculum Development in Progress**

OPOTA is actively developing the refresher curriculum. The courses will serve as advanced training—not a full academy—and will be designed to get experienced officers back in the field efficiently. ⚠️ **High demand is anticipated** for initial course offerings—please plan ahead and register early.

We appreciate your continued partnership and commitment to public safety. Our team will provide further updates and guidance as implementation progresses.