

Ohio House unanimously passes bill to ban police ticket quotas

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COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The Ohio House unanimously voted Wednesday to ban police departments from requiring their officers to write a certain number of tickets each month.

[House Bill 131](#), sponsored by state Reps. Kevin Miller, a Newark Republican and Bride Rose Sweeney, a Westlake Democrat, would prohibit police departments setting quotes for citations or arrests. It would also block departments from using those numbers in decisions about promotions, transfers or discipline.

"An officer could be expected to write a certain number of tickets or make a certain number of arrests to keep their job or get a promotion," Sweeney said. "This practice encourages officers to focus on the quantity of tickets they write rather than the quality of their police work."

HB 131 would also create a process to report quotas anonymously to the Ohio Attorney General's office, which would be authorized to investigate and issue cease-and-desist orders if necessary.

Ohio's Fraternal Order of Police supports the legislation, but Central Ohio Chiefs of Police Association President Mike Crispin pushed back on what he calls a mischaracterization of how departments use performance data.

"The idea, repeated by some supporters, that officers are unable to investigate serious crimes because they are too busy writing traffic tickets is both inaccurate and offensive," Crispin said. "The suggestion that supervisors who expect arrests are demanding 'quotas' is a misrepresentation of responsible leadership."

He warned that the bill could make it hard to manage officer performance and shield low-performing officers from oversight.

Crispin said departments aren't asking for quotas, but for the ability "to set reasonable expectations for performance--not quotas, but fairness, consistency, and accountability."

At least 25 states have enacted quota bans, including Iowa, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Ohio lawmakers have considered similar proposals in the past, but a version introduced last General Assembly failed to get a vote before session ended.

HB 131 now heads to the Ohio Senate.