



April 04, 2022

Action Alert: HB 509

We need OFCA members to contact key members of the Ohio Senate and share concerns with the proposed reductions in the minimum hours for firefighter continuing education contained in Substitute House Bill 509.

To view Substitute House Bill 509, [click here!](#)

[Click here for the bill summary.](#)

Since 2008, Ohio has been a leader when it comes to firefighter education and training due to changes the OFCA helped implement to require a minimal level of continuing education hours for all of Ohio’s firefighters. It is important to note that the changes to training and certification requirements were pursued collaboratively with stakeholders from all levels of the fire service, including career firefighters and volunteer firefighters in support. Those efforts culminated in HB 401 of the 126th General Assembly, which passed both chambers with near unanimous support, to allow the Board of Emergency Medical Services (now the EMFTS Board) to adopt rules for firefighter training in consultation with the Board’s Firefighter & Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee. The EMFTS Board has set the training requirements at 54 hours every three year certification cycle.

House Bill 509, as passed by the Ohio House, would reduce that requirement to 36 hours because that is the level that Michigan has set. Passing HB 509 in its current form would be a step backward for Ohio’s fire service, and the OFCA opposes the inclusion of any reduction in firefighter continuing education in this bill.

Please call the following senators and ask them to remove the firefighter continuing education hour reduction from House Bill 509. The bill is currently being considered by the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee. Members of the Committee include:

Senator Terry Johnson, Chair (R-McDermott) Counties: Adams, Brown, Clermont, Lawrence (part), Scioto	(614) 466-8082 johnson@ohiosenate.gov
Senator Jerry Cirino, Vice Chair (R-Kirtland) Counties: Geauga (part), Lake (part), Portage	(614) 644-7718 cirino@ohiosenate.gov
Senator Rob McColley	(614) 466-8150

(R-Napoleon) Counties: Auglaize (part), Defiance, Fulton (part), Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Logan (part), Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams	mccolley@ohiosenate.gov
Senator William Reineke (R-Tiffin) Counties: Crawford, Marion, Morrow, Sandusky, Seneca, Union, Wyandot	(614) 466-8049 reineke@ohiosenate.gov
Senator Michael Rulli (R-Salem) Counties: Columbiana, Mahoning	(614) 466-8285 rulli@ohiosenate.gov
Senator Sandra Williams, Ranking Member (D-Cleveland) County: Cuyahoga (Part)	(614) 466-4857 williams@ohiosenate.gov
Senator Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) County: Cuyahoga (Part)	(614) 466-5123 antonio@ohiosenate.gov

It is also important to reach out to the following members of Senate leadership to share concerns with HB 509:

President Matt Huffman (R-Lima) Counties: Allen, Auglaize (part), Champaign, Darke (part), Logan (part), Mercer, Shelby	(614) 466-8049 huffman@ohiosenate.gov
Senator Jay Hottinger President Pro-Tem (R-Newark) Counties: Coshocton, Holmes (part), Licking, Perry, Tuscarawas	(614) 466-8285 hottinger@ohiosenate.gov
Senator Kirk Schuring Majority Floor Leader (R-Canton) County: Stark (Part)	(614) 466-4857 schuring@ohiosenate.gov

If you have any questions, please contact Dan Fitzpatrick at (614) 886-5425 or Dan@Fitzgibbongroup.com.