



MIKE DEWINE

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The Honorable Keith Faber
President
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear President Faber:

House Bill 386 (§13, adopted by the 129th General Assembly) and House Bill 59 (§211.10, adopted by the 130th General Assembly) require me to submit reports to the General Assembly on how to best use funds from the gross casino tax revenue to enhance public safety and provide additional law enforcement training opportunities. Two percent of the gross casino tax revenue is dedicated to funding law enforcement training (Ohio Constitution, Art. XV, §6(C)(3)(f)), with 85% going to the Attorney General's Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) and 15% going to the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS). R.C. 5753.03(D).

To determine how best to spend this money, I convened an advisory group of state and local law enforcement representatives, including:

- Ohio State Highway Patrol, **Colonel John Born.**
- Fraternal Order of Police, **Legislative Chairman Mark Drum.**
- Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, **Chief Ken Hinkle.**
- Buckeye State Sheriff's Association, **Sheriff John Lenhart.**
- Office of Criminal Justice Services, **Director Karhlton Moore.**
- Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, **Interim Executive Director Mary Davis.**
- Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, **Assistant Superintendent Steve Schierholt.**

In addition, Fraternal Order of Police President Jay McDonald and Captains Shawn Davis and Chad McGinty of the Ohio State Highway Patrol attended advisory group meetings. The group recommended the following, which I endorse:

- 1) Dedicating \$2.8 million (\$2.35 million from OPOTA and \$450,000 from OCJS) to fund four hours of Continuing Professional Training (CPTs) in calendar year 2014, with any carryover balance applied to 2015 CPTs.
- 2) Committing in the long-term that if casino revenues increase over current projections, OPOTA and OCJS will allocate 50% of the increase to fund additional CPTs in subsequent years.

- 3) OPOTA will determine one hour of “critical subject training” that every officer will have to take. The other 3 hours can be from any course in the OPOTA catalog or curriculum approved by OPOTA.
- 4) Continuing to provide OPOTA’s free direct-service model of hands-on training delivered to local law enforcement.

Local law enforcement representatives stressed the importance of continuing to make progress toward the goal of eight hours of funded CPTs in the next five years. I agree that CPT hours are important for local law enforcement, and I will continue working to find ways to increase funding for law enforcement training.

While all of OPOTA’s share of the casino revenue was accounted for in the advisory group’s recommendations, the group did not reach consensus on a remaining \$450,000 of expected revenue for OCJS. This \$450,000 amounts to one-half of the total amount that OCJS will receive, or 7.5% of the total amount of casino revenue dedicated to law enforcement training. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) indicated that it wished to use the \$450,000 to fund DPS provided training. Other members of the advisory group felt that money should be made competitively available for all of Ohio’s law enforcement through a micro-grant process, or that all the money should be spent on CPTs.

Because no consensus was reached, the DPS and local law enforcement representatives agreed to meet separately to discuss how best to use the remaining \$450,000 over the next two years.

I would be happy to provide a more detailed breakdown of the casino revenue projections and these recommendations if they would be helpful to you. Thank you.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "DeWine" clearly distinguishable.

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General