



Ohio Revised Code

Section 109.78 Certification of special police, security guards, or persons otherwise privately employed in a police capacity.

Effective: December 29, 2023

Legislation: Senate Bill 131

(A) The executive director of the Ohio peace officer training commission, on behalf of the commission and in accordance with rules promulgated by the attorney general, shall certify persons who have satisfactorily completed approved training programs designed to qualify persons for positions as special police, security guards, or persons otherwise privately employed in a police capacity and issue appropriate certificates to such persons. Application for approval of a training program designed to qualify persons for such positions shall be made to the commission. An application for approval shall be submitted to the commission with a fee of one hundred twenty-five dollars, which fee shall be refunded if the application is denied. Such programs shall cover only duties and jurisdiction of such security guards and special police privately employed in a police capacity when such officers do not qualify for training under section 109.71 of the Revised Code. A person attending an approved basic training program administered by the state shall pay to the agency administering the program the cost of the person's participation in the program as determined by the agency. A person attending an approved basic training program administered by a county or municipal corporation shall pay the cost of the person's participation in the program, as determined by the administering subdivision, to the county or the municipal corporation. A person who is issued a certificate for satisfactory completion of an approved basic training program shall pay to the commission a fee of fifteen dollars. A duplicate of a lost, spoliated, or destroyed certificate may be issued upon application and payment of a fee of fifteen dollars. Such certificate or the completion of twenty years of active duty as a peace officer shall satisfy the educational requirements for appointment or commission as a special police officer or special deputy of a political subdivision of this state.

(B)(1) The executive director of the Ohio peace officer training commission, on behalf of the commission and in accordance with rules promulgated by the attorney general, shall certify basic firearms training programs, and shall issue certificates to class A, B, or C licensees or prospective class A, B, or C licensees under Chapter 4749. of the Revised Code and to registered or prospective employees of such class A, B, or C licensees who have satisfactorily completed a basic firearms



training program of the type described in division (A)(1) of section 4749.10 of the Revised Code.

Application for approval of a basic firearms training program shall be made to the commission. An application shall be submitted to the commission with a fee of one hundred dollars, which fee shall be refunded if the application is denied.

A person who is issued a certificate for satisfactory completion of an approved basic firearms training program shall pay a fee of ten dollars to the commission. A duplicate of a lost, spoliated, or destroyed certificate may be issued upon application and payment of a fee of five dollars.

(2) The executive director, on behalf of the commission and in accordance with rules promulgated by the attorney general, also shall certify firearms requalification training programs and instructors for the annual requalification of class A, B, or C licensees under Chapter 4749. of the Revised Code and registered or prospective employees of such class A, B, or C licensees who are authorized to carry a firearm under section 4749.10 of the Revised Code. Application for approval of a training program or instructor for such purpose shall be made to the commission. Such an application shall be submitted to the commission with a fee of fifty dollars, which fee shall be refunded if the application is denied.

(3) The executive director, upon request, also shall review firearms training received within three years prior to November 23, 1985, by any class A, B, or C licensee or prospective class A, B, or C licensee, or by any registered or prospective employee of any class A, B, or C licensee under Chapter 4749. of the Revised Code to determine if the training received is equivalent to a basic firearms training program that includes twenty hours of handgun training and five hours of training in the use of other firearms, if any other firearm is to be used. If the executive director determines the training was received within the three-year period and that it is equivalent to such a program, the executive director shall issue written evidence of approval of the equivalency training to the licensee or employee.

(C) There is hereby established in the state treasury the peace officer private security fund, which shall be used by the Ohio peace officer training commission to administer the training program to qualify persons for positions as special police, security guards, or other private employment in a police capacity, as described in division (A) of this section, and the training program in basic



firearms and the training program for firearms requalification, both as described in division (B) of this section. All fees paid to the commission by applicants for approval of a training program designed to qualify persons for such private police positions, basic firearms training program, or a firearms requalification training program or instructor, as required by division (A) or (B) of this section, by persons who satisfactorily complete a private police training program or a basic firearms training program, as required by division (A) or (B) of this section, or by persons who satisfactorily requalify in firearms use, as required by division (B)(2) of section 4749.10 of the Revised Code, shall be transmitted to the treasurer of state for deposit in the fund. The fund shall be used only for the purpose set forth in this division.

(D)(1) Subject to division (D)(2) of this section, no public or private educational institution or superintendent of the state highway patrol shall employ a person as a special police officer, as a security guard, or for a similar law enforcement or security position, who has not received a certificate of having satisfactorily completed an approved basic peace officer training program, unless the person has completed twenty years of active duty as a peace officer.

(2) Division (D)(1) of this section does not apply to a person who is employed by a school district board of education or governing body of a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, STEM school established under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code, or chartered nonpublic school and who has been authorized by a board or governing body to voluntarily go armed within a school safety zone within which the board or governing body has authority, if both of the following apply with respect to the employment and person:

(a) The person is within the category of persons authorized to go armed within a school safety zone specified under division (D)(1)(d) of section 2923.122 of the Revised Code.

(b) The person is not being employed as a special police officer or security officer.

(E) The general assembly, in amending division (D) of this section pursuant to H.B. 99 of the 134th general assembly, hereby declares that the purpose of those amendments is to expressly overrule the decision of the Ohio Supreme Court in the case *Gabbard v. Madison Local School Dist. Bd. of Edn.*, Slip Opinion No. 2021-Ohio-2067.



(F) The executive director of the commission shall issue a certificate of completion of a training program required under division (A) of this section in accordance with Chapter 4796. of the Revised Code to an individual if either of the following applies:

(1) The individual holds a certificate of completion of such a program in another state.

(2) The individual has satisfactory work experience, a government certification, or a private certification as described in that chapter in the same profession, occupation, or occupational activity as the profession, occupation, or occupational activity for which the certificate is required in this state in a state that does not require completion of such a training program.