



# FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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February 7, 2017

**Re: HB 27 PN 350**

Dear Representative,

On behalf of over 40,000 active and retired Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Officers, the Fraternal Order of Police, Pennsylvania State Lodge, asks your support of HB 27 Amending Title 44. This bill adds a provision to limit the release of law enforcement officer's identifying information to insure the safety of the officer and their family. The information can be released if criminal charges are brought against the officer.

This bill offers a balance of the public's "right-to-know" and the safety of law enforcement officers doing the difficult job entrusted to them by the State. HB 27 would simply restrict, pending an investigation, the release of the name and identifying information of the law enforcement officer involved in the use of a firearm or other use of force. At the conclusion of the investigation, the information can be released to the public, if the law enforcement officer is charged with a criminal offense relating to the discharge of a firearm or unlawful use of force. This is not an attempt to keep information from the public. It is, in fact, just the opposite as it mandates the release of this information after a period of time (30 days or less). This short delay is necessary to determine just what transpired in a given incident and not have the rush to judgement we have unfortunately seen in too many cases throughout the country.

The FOP Pennsylvania State Lodge supports HB 27 PN 350 and thanks you for your continued support of Pennsylvania's law enforcement officers.

Sincerely,

Joseph Regan, Chairman  
Legislative Committee  
Fraternal Order of Police  
Pennsylvania State Lodge