



# *ENACTMENT NEWS*

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## **Senate Bill 7** “The Hopper Act” Effective September 4, 2013

On June 4, 2013, Governor John R. Kasich signed into law Senate Bill 7, which requires courts to report information to law enforcement in two specific circumstances. Law enforcement, in turn, is to submit the information into the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS).

If a court orders a person who pleads guilty to or is convicted of an offense of violence (as defined in O.R.C. Sec. 2901.01) to receive either a mental health evaluation or treatment for a mental illness, the court is required to report the conviction and the required evaluation or treatment to a local law enforcement agency. Reporting includes the name of the court providing the information, the underlying violent offense, and any other required information. The report will remain in LEADS until further order of the court (e.g. if an ordered evaluation has shown no sign of mental illness or if the court is satisfied that treatment has been effective).

If a court approves a conditional release, the court is required to report the approval to a local law enforcement agency for entry into LEADS. Reporting includes the name of the court providing the information, the offense with which the defendant was charged, whether the defendant was found not guilty by reason of insanity or incompetent to stand trial with no substantial probability of becoming competent, the reason for the conditional release, and any other required information. The report will remain in LEADS until termination of the conditional release.

Senate Bill 7 was sponsored by Senate President Pro Tempore Chris Widener and Senator Bill Beagle and was named The Hopper Act in honor of Clark County Sheriff's Deputy Suzanne Hopper. After responding to a call, Deputy Hopper was shot and killed by a gunman who had a criminal record and who had previously been found not guilty by reason of insanity and conditionally released.

The bill passed the Ohio Senate 32-1 on March 20 and the Ohio House of Representatives 92-0 on May 29. It was signed by the governor on June 4 and will become effective on September 4, 2013.