



Greg Schwab

Bill Analysis

Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 682

123rd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Roman, Buehrer, DePiero, Netzley, Buchy, Willamowski, Winkler,
Jones, Flannery**

BILL SUMMARY

- Eliminates the authority of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to randomly select motorists to verify their maintenance of financial responsibility.
- Eliminates the requirement for the Registrar to adopt rules providing for random verification programs.
- Requires the demonstration of proof of financial responsibility as a condition of renewing the registration of a motor vehicle.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Financial Responsibility Law

(sec. 4509.101)

Current law provides that no person shall operate, or permit the operation of, a motor vehicle in Ohio unless proof of financial responsibility is maintained continuously throughout the registration period with respect to that vehicle, or, in the case of a driver who is not the owner, with respect to that driver's operation of that vehicle. The law requires a person to verify the existence of proof of financial responsibility covering the operation of a motor vehicle: (1) when the person, or a motor vehicle owned by that person, is involved in a traffic accident that requires the filing of an accident report, (2) when a person receives a traffic ticket, (3) during motor vehicle inspections conducted pursuant to section 4513.02 of the Revised Code (sec. 4513.022), and (4) whenever the person is randomly selected by the Registrar and requested to provide verification.

The bill eliminates the requirement for persons randomly selected by the Registrar to verify the existence of proof of financial responsibility, and eliminates

related procedural provisions within sections 4509.101 and 4507.02 of the Revised Code.

Adoption of rules by Registrar

(Sections 3 and 4)

Section 3 of Am. Sub. S.B. 20 of the 120th General Assembly, as most recently amended by Section 14 of Am. Sub. H.B. 163 of the 123rd General Assembly, requires, in part, the Registrar to adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act establishing "a permanent program requiring that persons randomly selected on a statewide basis be required to verify the existence of proof of financial responsibility." In conformity with the bill's elimination of the statutory requirement for persons randomly selected by the Registrar to verify the existence of proof of financial responsibility, the legislation repeals Section 3 of Am. Sub. S.B. 20 of the 120th General Assembly, as amended, containing the Registrar's responsibility to adopt rules for a program of random verification of financial responsibility. The bill directs the Registrar to take every action necessary to cease operation of the random verification program, including terminating all obligations of the state under any contract entered into for purposes of the program.

Proof of financial responsibility to be provided at the time of renewal of a motor vehicle's registration

(sec. 4503.20)

Current law requires an application for the registration of a motor vehicle to contain a statement, to be signed by the applicant, that states that the applicant maintains, or has maintained on the applicant's behalf, proof of financial responsibility at the time of application, and will not operate a motor vehicle in Ohio unless the applicant maintains proof of financial responsibility with respect to that vehicle.

The bill adds the requirement that persons making application to renew the registration of a motor vehicle provide proof of financial responsibility demonstrated in a manner described in the Financial Responsibility Law. The legislation requires the Registrar or Deputy Registrar who issues the renewed registration, or the Registrar's or Deputy Registrar's successor, to retain a copy of the proof of financial responsibility for at least two years after the date of the registration renewal.

HISTORY



ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	05-02-00	p. 1869

H0682-I.123/jc

