



Am. H.B. 363

124th General Assembly
(As Passed by the House)

Reps. Husted, Calvert, Raga, DeWine, Olman, Damschroder, Seitz, Schmidt, Webster, Faber, G. Smith, Setzer, Womer Benjamin, Fessler, Allen, Jerse, Collier, Lendrum, Willamowski, Manning, Grendell, Sulzer, Hughes, Carey, Hagan, Schaffer, Widowfield, Callender, Schuring, Core, Jones

BILL SUMMARY

- Increases the minimum coverage requirements of the Financial Responsibility Law.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background

The Financial Responsibility Law (Chapter 4509.) prohibits any person from operating, or permitting 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, if the driver is not the owner, with respect to that driver's operation of the vehicle. For purposes of the Law, "**proof of financial responsibility**" means proof of a person's ability to respond financially to damages arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle, for which the person is liable. The Law requires financial responsibility in the minimum amount of \$12,500 for bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident, \$25,000 for bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident, and \$7,500 for injury to the property of others in any one accident. Generally, a person may demonstrate proof of financial responsibility by presenting certain documents, including an insurance identification card, a policy of liability insurance, a \$30,000 bond issued by a surety company, and a certificate of the Treasurer of State evidencing the deposit of \$30,000 in money or securities.

The bill

(secs. 4509.01(K), 4509.20(A), 4509.41(A), and 4509.51(B); Section 3)

The bill modifies the definition of "**proof of financial responsibility**" to increase the minimum coverage requirements of the Financial Responsibility Law, as follows:

--For bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident, the minimum amount required is increased from \$12,500 to \$25,000;

--For bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident, the minimum amount required is increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000;

--For injury to the property of others in any one accident, the minimum amount required is increased from \$7,500 to \$25,000.

The bill makes corresponding changes to related provisions of the Financial Responsibility Law, including the statutory requirements for a motor vehicle liability insurance policy.

Lastly, the bill specifies that it applies only with respect to new insurance policies or bonds, and renewals of insurance policies or bonds, that are issued on or after the bill's effective date.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	09-13-01	p. 829
Reported, H. Civil & Commercial Law	10-30-01	p. 1040
Passed House (97-2)	10-31-01	pp. 1062-1063

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