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Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 487

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Hagan, Lendrum, Collier, Clancy, Seitz, Schaffer, Fessler, Schmidt, Young, Roman, Webster, Widowfield, Aslanides, Hollister, Schuring, Carmichael, Reinhard, Raga, Grendell, Willamowski, Metzger, Gilb, Core, Faber, Carano, Latta, Patton, Seaver, Allen

BILL SUMMARY

- Exempts from the bus inspection requirements those vehicles registered as farm buses.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Bus inspection program

Current law

The Department of Public Safety, with the advice of the Public Utilities Commission, has adopted rules for the inspection of buses to determine whether a bus is safe, including whether its equipment is in proper condition.¹ The rules specify the safety features, items of equipment, and other safety-related conditions that are subject to inspection. The Ohio Highway Patrol (OHP) conducts the inspections, which are valid for 12 months unless, prior to that time, the bus fails a subsequent inspection or ownership of the bus is transferred. (R.C. 4513.52.)

Under the bus inspection provisions, no person may operate a bus, and no person who is the owner of a bus or has supervisory responsibility for a bus may permit the operation of the bus, unless the bus displays a valid, current safety inspection decal issued by the OHP (R.C. 4513.51(A)). For purposes of complying with the bus inspection provisions, the owner or other operator of a bus may drive the bus directly to an OHP inspection site and directly back to the person's place of business without displaying a safety inspection decal, but no passengers can occupy the bus during such operation (R.C. 4513.51(B)). The

¹ These rules are found at Chapter 4501-52 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

Registrar cannot accept an application for registration of a bus unless the bus owner presents a valid safety inspection report for the applicable registration year (R.C. 4513.51(C)).

For purposes of these provisions, "bus" means any vehicle used for the transportation of passengers that meets at least one of the following two provisions:

(1) The manufacturer originally designed it to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver;

(2) The vehicle's gross weight rating or gross weight exceeds 10,000 pounds. (R.C. 4513.50(A)(1)(a) and (b).)

Church buses and school buses are not subject to these provisions unless they are used in the transportation of passengers for hire by a motor transportation company or a common carrier by motor vehicle or by a private motor carrier or contract carrier by motor vehicle (R.C. 4513.50(A)(2)).² Buses owned or leased by government agencies or political subdivisions are also exempt from these inspections. (R.C. 4513.50(A)(3)(c).)

Changes made by the bill

The bill exempts from the bus inspection provisions any vehicle that is registered as a farm bus. Under current law, a "farm bus" is a bus that is used only for the transportation of agricultural employees when necessary for the operation of the farm.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	01-29-02	p. 1336

h0487-i.124/kl

² School buses are inspected pursuant to R.C. 4511.76 and 4511.761 and church buses are inspected pursuant to R.C. 4503.07; the bill does not affect any of these sections.