



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

Linda S. Crawford

### Sub. S.B. 179

129th General Assembly  
(As Reported by S. Highways and Transportation)

**Sens.** Wilson, Sawyer, Tavares, Kearney, Schaffer

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## BILL SUMMARY

- Creates "Ohio Geology" license plates, with a \$15 contribution to be paid to the Ohio Geology Advisory Council of the Department of Natural Resources and used primarily for grants for graduate level research at locations of geological interest.
- Creates the Ohio Geology License Plate Fund.
- Eliminates the ability of owners of certain off-highway motorcycles and all-purpose vehicles (generally those purchased before October 1, 2005 for which no certificate of title has been issued) to register the motorcycles or vehicles by presenting an affidavit of ownership, thereby requiring the owners to obtain certificates of title when initially registering the off-highway motorcycles or all-purpose vehicles.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### "Ohio Geology" license plates

The bill creates "Ohio Geology" license plates, which (1) are available to the general public, (2) are inscribed with the words "Ohio Geology" and a design selected by the Ohio Geology Advisory Council, and (3) in addition to applicable license taxes and fees, require a \$15 contribution and a fee<sup>1</sup> to compensate the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for added services required in issuing license plates.<sup>2</sup> The \$15 contribution is to be paid to the credit of the Ohio Geology License Plate Fund, which the bill creates,

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<sup>1</sup> In R.C. 4503.515(B), the bill refers to a \$15 additional fee for services of the Registrar in issuing the plate and in R.C. 4503.515(C), a \$10 fee; \$10 is the standard additional service fee for the Registrar when issuing special license plates.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4503.515.

and the additional fee paid to the Registrar is paid to the State Bureau of Motor Vehicles Fund.<sup>3</sup>

The bill requires the Ohio Geology Advisory Council (a seven-member body created in the Department of Natural Resources, appointed by the Governor to three-year staggered terms, and serving without compensation) to establish and administer a grant program funded by the contributions from the "Ohio Geology" license plates. The primary purpose of the program is awarding grants to geology departments of Ohio colleges and universities for graduate-level research conducted at locations of geological interest in Ohio. The secondary purpose of the program, subject to the amount of money in the fund, is to provide materials such as rock and mineral kits to elementary and secondary schools to assist students in the study of geology. The Council must award grants at least annually and, in its discretion, may award grants on a more frequent basis.<sup>4</sup>

### **Certificate of registration for certain off-highway motorcycles and all-purpose vehicles**

The bill eliminates the option for an owner of an off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle that was purchased prior to October 1, 2005, and for which a certificate of title has not been issued, to present a signed affidavit of ownership in lieu of a certificate of title when first registering the vehicle.<sup>5</sup> The ability to present an affidavit for these vehicles was created in 2009,<sup>6</sup> and the elimination of the affidavit option subjects these vehicles to the general requirement for a certificate of title to be presented to the Registrar or a deputy registrar when the application for the initial certificate of registration for the off-highway motorcycle or all-purpose vehicle is submitted.

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## **HISTORY**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Introduced	05-31-11
Reported, S. Highways & Transportation	11-21-11

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 1505.13 and 4503.515(C).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 1505.11 and 1515.12.

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 4519.03.

<sup>6</sup> Am. Sub. H.B. 1, 128th General Assembly (effective October 16, 2009).

