



*Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments**

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Legislative Service Commission

Sub. H.B. 329

125th General Assembly
(S. Highways & Transportation)

Special license plates

In addition to the four military-related special license plates in the version of the bill passed by the House, creates the following special license plates, establishes a contribution for receiving the plate (except in regard to (1) and (2), below, which are military-related plates), and specifies who receives the contribution and how the contribution must be used: (1) Silver Star, (2) Bronze Star, (3) Breast Cancer Awareness, (4) 4-H, (5) Ohio Cattlemen's Foundation Beef, (6) Share the Road, (7) Perry's Monument, (8) National Rifle Association Foundation, (9) Pets, (10) Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, (11) Mahoning River, (12) Sportsmen (consisting of four separate varieties, including a walleye, smallmouth bass, white-tailed deer, or a wild turkey), (13) Smokey Bear, (14) Ohio State Parks, and (15) Ohio Zoo. The bill also establishes an additional procedure involving contracting with a community charity that may be used for the issuance of special license plates bearing the logo of a professional sports team.

Ohio Turnpike Commission

Permits the Ohio Turnpike Commission to implement any permanent or temporary toll rate decrease after holding one public meeting instead of the minimum of three meetings required under current law for any toll rate change.

Permits the Commission to institute a temporary toll rate decrease for up to 18 months in duration.

Provides that if the Commission institutes a temporary toll rate decrease for certain classes of commercial vehicles traveling on the Ohio Turnpike, the Ohio Department of Transportation must make a one-time payment to the Commission to offset the estimated revenue loss to the Commission during the temporary decrease, up to \$23.4 million.

* This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate floor.

Requires the Ohio Turnpike Commission and the Department of Transportation to make a joint written report to the General Assembly on or before March 6, 2006 on the impact of toll reductions made under the bill on traffic and revenue and also on the Ohio Turnpike Commission debt service.

Increases from \$10,000 to \$50,000 the amount above which the Commission must utilize competitive bidding procedures for certain kinds of contracts.

Emergency clause

Declares an emergency that applies to the entire bill.

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