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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Transportation Review Advisory Council

- Alters the membership of the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC), which currently and under the bill consists of nine voting members, as follows:
  - Reduces the number of members appointed by the Governor from six to five;
  - Increases the number of members appointed by the Senate President from one to two;
  - Increases the number of members appointed by the Speaker of the House from one to two; and
  - Makes the Director of Transportation a nonvoting member.

### Ohio Wayside Detector System Expansion Program

- Establishes the Ohio Wayside Detector System Expansion Program, administered by the Ohio Rail Commission.
- Allows railroad companies doing business in Ohio to apply for competitive grants under the program for wayside detector system projects, including projects related to installation, equipment, power sources, and employee training.
- Requires the railroad company to fund a percentage of the wayside detector system project, based on the size of the railroad company, with the Commission providing the remaining portion.
- Requires the Commission to establish any procedures and requirements necessary to administer the program.

### Transportation Review Advisory Council

(R.C. 5512.07; Section 755.20)

The Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) consists of nine voting members (under the bill and current law). The bill alters the membership of the Council by doing the following:

- Reducing the number of members appointed by the Governor from six to five;
- Increasing the number of members appointed by the Senate President from one to two;
- Increasing the number of members appointed by the Speaker of the House from one to two; and
- Making the ODOT Director a nonvoting member instead of a voting member as under current law.

To effectuate the alterations to Council membership, the bill requires the following to occur not later 60 days after the bill's effective date:

- The Governor must remove one person from the Council who was previously appointed;
- The Senate President must appoint one additional person who serves the remaining term of the member removed by the Governor; and
- The Speaker must appoint one additional member to serve a five-year term from the date of appointment.

Under current law, the Council reviews the written project selection process for proposed new transportation capacity projects submitted to it by the Director. The Council may approve the process or make revisions to it.

## **Ohio Wayside Detector System Expansion Program**

(Sections 411.10, 411.11, 513.10, and 749.70)

The bill establishes the Ohio Wayside Detector System Expansion Program, administered by the Ohio Rail Commission. Under the program, any railroad company that does business in Ohio may apply for competitive grant funding to use for wayside detector system projects. Wayside detector systems are the electronic devices or series of connected devices that scan passing trains, rolling stock, on-track equipment, and their competent equipment and parts for defects. Defects include hot wheel bearings, hot wheels, defective bearings, dragging equipment, excessive height or weight, shift loads, low hoses, rail temperature, and wheel condition. A railroad company must use the program's grant funds to help install, purchase equipment and upgrades and improve a system's power sources for, and train employees on wayside detector systems.

The bill requires a recipient railroad company to fund a percentage of the wayside detector systems project, based on the size of the railroad company. The Commission then provides the remaining portion of the cost. Specifically, a Class I company must fund 75%, a Class II company must fund 50%, and a Class III company must fund 25%. The federal Surface Transportation Board makes the Class determinations.

The Commission must manage the program by establishing any necessary procedures and requirements to administer it. This may include grant application procedures, application evaluation criteria, award processes, and any conditions for expenditure of grant funding awarded under the program. The bill appropriates \$10 million for the program.