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## SECRETARY OF STATE

### Safe at Home fines

- Allows courts to retain for administrative purposes up to 25% of fines collected by the court for the Address Confidentiality Program administered by the Secretary of State (SOS).
- Allows a court to assign to the prosecuting attorney as reimbursement up to 25% of fines collected by the court for the Address Confidentiality Program administered by the SOS.

### Data Analysis Transparency Archive (DATA) Act

- Enacts the Data Analysis Transparency Archive (DATA) Act to create a new office within the Office of the SOS and to modify the ways in which the boards of elections must retain election data, enter it into the Statewide Voter Registration Database (SWVRD), and make it available to the public.
- Requires the SOS and the boards to implement these changes by January 1, 2025.

### Office of Data Analytics and Archives

- Creates the Office of Data Analytics and Archives in the Office of the SOS, which must retain, analyze, and publish election data and business services data.

### Statewide Voter Registration Database

- Codifies the data fields that must be included in the SWVRD for each registered elector and institutes uniform requirements for related recordkeeping.
- Provides uniform methods for determining an elector's voter registration date and voting history for inclusion in the SWVRD.
- Requires the SWVRD to include each elector's last activity date, as defined by the SOS by rule, along with any other information required by rule.
- Requires the boards to create daily archives of their voter registration databases and send them to the SOS during the period beginning on the 46<sup>th</sup> day before an election and ending on the 81<sup>st</sup> day after an election.

### Public access to voter registration records

- Specifies that voter registration forms and the SWVRD are public records subject to disclosure under the Public Records Law in the same manner as records of other public offices, instead of requiring those records to be open to public inspection under a separate provision of law.
- Clarifies which pieces of information contained in a voter registration record are subject to disclosure and prohibits the disclosure of an elector's telephone number or email address.

- Adds to the information that must be available about each elector on the public website version of the SWVRD.
- Requires that website to show an elector's birth date, voter registration date, and last activity date, in addition to other information that is included under continuing law.
- Prohibits any of the information that is exempt from disclosure as a public record from being made available on the website.

### **Retention of ballots after an election**

- Requires the boards of elections to preserve all used and unused ballots from a nonfederal election for at least 81 days after the day of the election, instead of 60 days as required under current law.

### **Canvass of election returns**

- Allows the boards of elections to begin the canvass of the election returns as early as the fifth day after Election Day, as opposed to the 11<sup>th</sup> day under current law.

### **Campaign communications regarding county political parties**

- Adds prohibitions to the Campaign Finance Law in order to prevent a political action committee or political contributing entity from impersonating or purporting to speak on behalf of a county political party without the party's permission.

### **Precinct election official training**

- Requires the SOS to make grants to the boards of elections to pay the cost of precinct election official training programs, instead of reimbursing counties for those costs.

### **Electronic pollbook reimbursement**

- Modifies procedures established under H.B. 45 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly for the SOS to reimburse the boards of elections for 85% of the cost of electronic pollbooks and ancillary equipment, up to each county's allocated share of a previously made appropriation.

### **Save our Farmland and Protect our National Security Act**

- Requires the SOS to compile and publish a registry of individuals, businesses, organizations, and governments that constitute a threat to the agricultural production or military defense of Ohio or the United States.
- Requires the SOS, in compiling a registry, to consult certain federal government lists of foreign adversaries, terrorist organizations, and sanctioned persons.
- Prohibits all persons listed on the registry from acquiring agricultural land or other real property in this state located within 25 miles of a military base, camp, airport, or other similar installation under the jurisdiction of the United States armed forces.

- Allows an exception for property acquired by devise or descent or by operation of law in the collection of a debt, but requires the registered person to divest of such acquisitions within two years.
- Allows registered persons to retain land holdings acquired before the prohibition's effective date.
- Specifies that property acquired in violation of the bill escheats to the state and must be sold at public auction.
- Names the prohibition the Save our Farmland and Protect our National Security Act.

## **Safe at Home fines**

(R.C. 2929.18 and 2929.28)

The bill allows a court that imposes a fine for the Address Confidentiality Program (also known as Safe at Home) to retain up to 25% of amount collected to cover administrative costs and to assign up to 25% of the amount collected to reimburse the prosecuting attorney for costs associated with prosecution of the offense. In addition to any other fine that is or may be imposed on an offender for domestic violence, menacing by stalking, rape, sexual battery, or trafficking in persons, the court under continuing law may impose a fine of between \$75 and \$500 to be transmitted to the State Treasurer to be credited to the Address Confidentiality Program Fund. The Address Confidentiality Program allows a victim of domestic violence, menacing by stalking, human trafficking, trafficking in persons, rape, or sexual battery who fears for safety as a victim to apply to the Secretary of State (SOS) for address confidentiality.

## **Data Analysis Transparency Archive (DATA) Act**

(R.C. 111.11, 3503.13, 3503.15, 3503.151, 3503.152, 3503.153, and 3505.31; Sections 395.10, 395.20, 735.10, and 803.290)

These provisions of the bill, called the Data Analysis Transparency Archive (DATA) Act, create a new office within the Office of the SOS and make changes to the ways in which the boards of elections must retain election data, enter it into the Statewide Voter Registration Database (SWVRD), and make it available to the public. The SOS and the boards must implement these changes by January 1, 2025.

### **Office of Data Analytics and Archives**

The bill creates the Office of Data Analytics and Archives in the Office of the SOS. Under the direction of the SOS, the new office must do both of the following:

- Retain voter registration and other election related data, including administering the SWVRD; analyze those data for purposes of maintaining accurate election data; and publish those data;
- Retain, analyze, and publish business services data.

The SOS's office already generally performs those functions, but the law does not specify which staff are responsible for doing so. The bill makes additional changes regarding the collection and retention of election data, as described below.

## **Statewide Voter Registration Database**

### **Background on the SWVRD**

The federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) requires each state to maintain a computerized statewide voter registration list that is administered at the state level.<sup>244</sup> Historically, each county in Ohio maintained its own voter registration records in a variety of paper or electronic formats. In order to comply with HAVA, the Revised Code was amended to create the SWVRD and to require each county to submit its voter registration records to the SOS on a daily basis for inclusion in the database. Under continuing law, the SOS must adopt rules under the Administrative Procedure Act concerning the format and method of data entry and various other procedures related to the SWVRD.

### **Uniform data entry**

The bill codifies the data fields that must be included in the SWVRD for each registered elector and institutes uniform requirements for related recordkeeping. And, the bill requires the SOS to prescribe rules under the Administrative Procedure Act, specifying the manner in which any voter registration records the boards maintain in other data formats must be converted for inclusion in the SWVRD and establishing a method for transmitting information securely to the SOS. A board of elections and any vendor with which it contracts to provide voter registration software or related services must ensure that the board's voter registration system and practices comply with the bill and related rules.

Currently, the SWVRD generally includes all of the information listed below, but the manner of data entry is not standardized, which can result in discrepancies when comparing data across counties. For example, when an elector requests an absentee ballot but does not return it, or casts an absentee or provisional ballot that is not counted, some counties might record the elector as having voted in the election, but other counties might not. As a result, it might be difficult to collect statewide data about the number of ballots cast and counted in a given election.

### ***Personal information***

For each elector, the SWVRD must include all of the following personal information:

- The elector's name;
- The elector's birth date;
- The elector's current residence address;
- The elector's precinct number;

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<sup>244</sup> 52 U.S.C. 21083.

- The elector's Ohio driver's license or state identification card number, if available;
- The last four digits of the elector's Social Security number, if available;
- The elector's telephone number and email address, if available. This information is not required to register or to vote, but the boards of elections do sometimes collect it from electors.<sup>245</sup>

### ***Voter registration date***

The SWVRD must include an elector's voter registration date, based on the elector's most recent application to register to vote in Ohio. For purposes of this field, a change of address or change of name is not considered a new voter registration, and a person who is already registered but submits a new voter registration form is not considered to have registered again. That is, once an elector is registered anywhere in Ohio, the elector remains registered under the same record if the elector moves within the state, changes the elector's name, or submits a duplicate registration form.

The voter registration date must be determined as follows:

- In the case of an application delivered in person to a board of elections, the SOS, or another government office, such as the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the date is the date stamped on the application upon receipt by the government office.
- In the case of an application delivered by mail to a board of elections or the SOS, the date is the date the application is postmarked.
- In the case of an application submitted online, the date is the date of the online submission.
- In the case of an application submitted to a board of elections by fax or email, as is permitted for uniformed services and overseas absent voters, the date is the date of the receipt of the fax or email.
- In the case of a provisional voter whose ballot is not counted because the person is not registered to vote, but who has provided enough information on the provisional ballot affirmation for it to serve as a voter registration application for future elections, the date is the date the board of elections determines that the provisional ballot is invalid.

However, an elector's voter registration date must not be during the period beginning on the day after the close of voter registration before an election (generally, the 29<sup>th</sup> day before Election Day) and ending on the day of the election. If the date determined above would be during that period, the voter registration date instead must be the date on which the board processes the application after the election.

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<sup>245</sup> R.C. 3503.14 and 3503.20, not in the bill.

### ***Voting history***

The SWVRD must include all of the following for each election in which an elector cast a ballot that was counted:

- The date of the election;
- If the election was a primary election, one of the following:
  - The political party whose ballot the elector cast;
  - An indication that the elector voted only on the questions and issues appearing on the ballot at a special election held on the day of the primary election. (An elector is considered unaffiliated if the elector casts an issues-only ballot at a primary.)
- The type of ballot the elector cast.

If an elector cast a ballot that was not counted, or applied for an absent voter's ballot but did not return it, the bill prevents that activity from being listed as part of the elector's voting history.

### ***Last activity date***

The SWVRD must include each elector's last activity date, as determined in accordance with rules adopted by the SOS under the Administrative Procedure Act. This information is relevant to continuing-law list maintenance procedures. For example, under continuing law, after an elector has been mailed a confirmation notice, the elector must respond to the notice, vote in an election, or update the elector's registration within a four-year period in order to avoid having the elector's registration canceled.<sup>246</sup>

### **Other information required by rule**

Finally, the bill allows the SOS to require the boards to include other information in the SWVRD by rules adopted under the Administrative Procedure Act.

### **Daily archives**

Under the bill, during the period beginning on the 46<sup>th</sup> day before an election and ending on the 81<sup>st</sup> day after the election, each board of elections must create a daily record of its voter registration database as of 4:00 p.m. (That time period represents the start of voting before an election through the date the official election results must be finalized.) The board must transmit the daily record to the SOS in a manner prescribed by the SOS. The SOS must archive the daily record and retain it for at least 22 months after the election (see "**Retention of ballots after an election,**" below).

### **Relocated provisions**

In reorganizing the statute governing the SWVRD, the bill relocates several provisions of law, largely unchanged. The following table shows those provisions and their new locations under the bill:

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<sup>246</sup> R.C. 3503.21(A)(7), not in the bill.

Provision	Current location	Location under the bill
Requires the SOS to obtain information from other state agencies and to share information with other states or groups of states for the purpose of maintaining the SWVRD. (The bill requires the new Office of Data Analytics and Archives to perform these functions.)	R.C. 3503.15(A)(2) to (5) and (D)(6) to (7)	R.C. 3503.151
Requires the SOS to conduct an annual review of the SWVRD to identify persons who appear not to be U.S. citizens. (The bill makes no changes to this provision.)	R.C. 3503.15(H)	R.C. 3503.152
Requires the SOS to make the SWVRD available online. (The bill makes a few changes to these provisions, described below under “ <b>Public website of the SWVRD.</b> ”)	R.C. 3503.15(G)	R.C. 3503.153

## Public access to voter registration records

### Public records requests

The bill changes the process for the boards of elections to make registration records available to the public and clarifies which pieces of information contained in a voter registration record are subject to disclosure.

Existing law requires a board of elections to make voter registration forms and the SWVRD open to public inspection at all times when the office of the board is open for business, under such regulations as the board adopts, provided that no person may inspect voter registration forms outside the presence of a board employee. The statute does not provide a process for the board to redact any of an elector’s personal identifying information before allowing public access to its records, although other provisions of state and federal law prohibit the disclosure of certain information.

The bill specifies instead that voter registration forms and the SWVRD are public records subject to disclosure under the Public Records Law in the same manner as records of other public offices. The Public Records Law, unchanged by the bill, includes procedures for the public to request records and for public offices to redact nonpublic information from records before providing them to requestors. For an overview, see LSC’s Members Brief, [Ohio’s Public Records Law \(PDF\)](#), which is available on LSC’s website, [lsc.ohio.gov](http://lsc.ohio.gov).

Additionally, the bill exempts all of the following from disclosure through voter registration records:

- An elector’s full or partial Social Security number. Federal law already prohibits a government agency from disclosing a person’s Social Security number, and the current

Public Records Law prohibits a public office from disclosing a Social Security number on the internet.<sup>247</sup>

- An elector's driver's license or state identification card number. The current Public Records Law prohibits a public office from disclosing a driver's license or state identification card number on the internet.<sup>248</sup>
- An elector's telephone number or email address. Current law generally does not prohibit the disclosure of this information.
- A confidential voter registration record of a participant in the Address Confidentiality Program, also known as Safe at Home. Continuing law prohibits the disclosure of any information from such a person's voter registration record.<sup>249</sup>
- The address of a designated public service worker, if the person has submitted a redaction request to the board of elections. Continuing law exempts from disclosure the address of a designated public service worker, such as a peace officer, prosecutor, correctional employee, or firefighter. A board of elections typically will not be aware that an elector qualifies for this exemption unless the elector submits a redaction request on a form prescribed by the Attorney General.<sup>250</sup>
- Any other information that is prohibited from being disclosed by state or federal law.

### **Public website of the SWVRD**

Correspondingly, the bill adds to the information that must be available on the public website version of the SWVRD. Under the bill, all of the following information must be available regarding a registered elector:

- The elector's name;
- The elector's birth date (added by the bill);
- The elector's current residence address;
- The elector's precinct number;
- The elector's polling place, during the 30 days before Election Day;
- The elector's voter registration date, as described above under "**Uniform data entry**" (added by the bill);

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<sup>247</sup> 42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)(viii) and R.C. 149.45(A)(1).

<sup>248</sup> R.C. 149.45(A)(1), not in the bill.

<sup>249</sup> R.C. 111.44, not in the bill and 149.43(A)(1)(ee).

<sup>250</sup> R.C. 149.45(D), not in the bill.



- The elector’s voting history, as described above under “**Uniform data entry**” (current law requires the website to include the elector’s voting history, but does not define that term);
- The elector’s last activity date, as described above under “**Uniform data entry.**”

The bill prohibits any of the information that is exempt from disclosure as a public record, as listed above, from being made available on the website, such as a Social Security number or information about an Address Confidentiality Program participant.

### **Retention of ballots after an election**

The bill requires the boards of elections to preserve all used and unused ballots from a nonfederal election for at least 81 days after the day of the election, instead of 60 days as required under current law. The bill also specifies that the board must retain any electronic images of ballots in that manner. Continuing law requires that the canvass of election returns (the final count of the ballots) be deemed final as of 81 days after the election. By extending the retention period, the bill ensures that the boards do not destroy any ballots before the canvass is finalized.

Under continuing law, the boards must retain ballots from a federal election for at least 22 months after the election.<sup>251</sup>

### **Canvass of election returns**

(R.C. 3505.32 and 3513.22)

The bill allows the boards of elections to begin the canvass of the election returns as early as the fifth day after Election Day, as opposed to the 11<sup>th</sup> day under current law. (The canvass of the election returns is the final, official count of the votes in an election.) Under continuing law, the boards must begin the canvass by the 15<sup>th</sup> day after Election Day and must complete it by the 21<sup>st</sup> day after Election Day.

Under recently enacted changes to the Election Law in H.B. 458 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, absentee ballots that are postmarked by the day before Election Day and returned by mail to the board of elections must arrive by the fourth day after Election Day, instead of the tenth day, in order to be eligible to be counted. Deficient absentee and provisional ballots, such as ones for which the voter must provide identification or other information to the board, also must be cured by the fourth day after Election Day, instead of the seventh day.<sup>252</sup> These changes make it possible for the boards to begin the canvass as early as the fifth day after Election Day, instead of waiting until the 11<sup>th</sup> day. However, H.B. 458 did not change the statutory timelines for the canvass.

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<sup>251</sup> R.C. 3505.32(A), not in the bill.

<sup>252</sup> R.C. 3505.183, 3509.05, 3509.06, and 3511.11, not in the bill.

The bill leaves in place a provision of current law that prohibits the boards of elections from counting certain uncured provisional ballots before the eighth day after Election Day. This requirement applies to provisional ballots for which the voter was required to provide additional information, such as identification, but did not.<sup>253</sup> As a result, not all ballots will be ready for inclusion in the canvass as of the fifth day after Election Day.

## **Campaign communications regarding county political parties**

(R.C. 3517.10 and 3517.20)

The bill adds prohibitions to the Campaign Finance Law in order to prevent a political action committee (PAC) or political contributing entity (PCE) from impersonating or purporting to speak on behalf of a county political party without the party's permission. These prohibitions are in addition to existing provisions of law that prohibit false campaign statements.

First, the bill prohibits the SOS from accepting a designation of treasurer (an initial entity registration) from a new PAC or PCE if, in the opinion of the SOS, the name of the PAC or PCE would lead a reasonable person to believe that the PAC or PCE acts on behalf of or represents a county political party, unless the party consents. And, the bill prohibits an existing PAC or PCE from using a name or address in a political communication that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the communication is made by or on behalf of a county party, unless the party consents. In both cases, the consent of a county party must take the form of a written statement, signed by the chairperson of the county party's executive committee, granting the PAC or PCE permission to act on behalf of or represent the county party.

Existing law prohibits any person, during the course of a campaign, from falsely identifying the source of a statement, issuing statements under the name of another person without authorization, or falsely stating that another person endorses or opposes a candidate or ballot issue.<sup>254</sup> It appears that this law would already prohibit at least some of the behavior described above. However, Ohio's law against false campaign statements is not currently being enforced because a federal appeals court ruled that the process for enforcing the law through the Ohio Elections Commission violates the First Amendment.<sup>255</sup> The bill does not make any changes to that process, meaning that the new prohibitions would be enforced in the same manner. As a result, this portion of the bill also might be challenged under the First Amendment.

## **Precinct election official training**

(R.C. 3501.27)

The bill requires the SOS to make grants to the boards of elections to pay the cost of precinct election official training programs, instead of reimbursing counties for those costs.

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<sup>253</sup> R.C. 3505.183(G), not in the bill.

<sup>254</sup> R.C. 3517.21(B)(8) and 3517.22(B)(1), not in the bill.

<sup>255</sup> *Susan B. Anthony List v. Driehaus*, 814 F.3d 466 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2016).

Under existing law, the SOS must reimburse counties for those costs upon receiving an itemized statement of expenses.

## **Electronic pollbook reimbursement**

(Section 610.30, amending Section 285.12 of H.B. 45 of the 134<sup>th</sup> G.A.)

The bill modifies provisions of H.B. 45 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly that require the SOS to reimburse the boards of elections for 85% of the cost of purchasing electronic pollbooks and ancillary equipment, up to the county's allocated share of a \$7.5 million appropriation. Each county's allocation is determined based on its number of registered electors as of July 1, 2022.

First, the bill adds a requirement that, when required under state purchasing requirements and at the request of the SOS, DAS's Office of Procurement Services must initiate a competitive solicitation for qualified vendors of electronic pollbooks that are approved for use under continuing law standards. Boards of elections must choose from the vendors identified through that process.

Further, the bill allows a board of elections to be reimbursed for the cost of leasing electronic pollbooks instead of purchasing them, if the county chooses to do so. The bill also specifies that a board of elections must notify the SOS of its selected electronic pollbooks and then acquire the equipment itself, instead of notifying the Office of Procurement Services of its choice and then having the Office acquire the equipment on behalf of the board.

The bill adds a caveat to a provision of H.B. 45 requiring the SOS to reimburse a board of elections for 85% of the cost of electronic pollbooks it had already acquired on or after January 1, 2020. Under the bill, a board is eligible for that reimbursement only if it is in compliance with all applicable directives and statutes. And, the bill requires the SOS to reimburse the board of elections instead of the county's general fund.

## **Save our Farmland and Protect our National Security Act**

(R.C. 2105.15, and 5301.256; Section 753.10)

The bill prohibits persons determined by the SOS to constitute a threat to the agricultural production or military defense of Ohio or the United States from acquiring (1) agricultural land, or (2) real property located within 25 miles of a military base, camp, airport or similar installation in Ohio under the jurisdiction of the United States armed forces (collectively referred to in this analysis as "protected property"). The prohibition applies to persons listed on a registry compiled by the SOS, and to agents, trustees, and fiduciaries of such persons (collectively referred to in this analysis as "registered persons"). The bill does require any registered person to divest of protected property acquired before the effective date of the prohibition, but it does prohibit registered persons from acquiring additional protected property or transferring protected property holdings to another registered person, unless an exception applies.

### **Compilation of registry**

The SOS must compile and publish a registry of "persons" – which the bill defines broadly to include individuals, businesses, organizations, legal or commercial entities, and governments other than the government of the United States, its states, subdivisions, territories, or

possessions – that pose a threat to the agricultural products and military defense of Ohio or the United States. In compiling this registry, the SOS must consult all of the following:

- The list of governments and other persons determined to be foreign adversaries by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce;
- The terrorist exclusion list compiled by the U.S. Secretary of State;
- The state sponsors of terrorism determined by the U.S. Secretary of State to have repeatedly provided support for the acts of international terrorism;
- The list of individuals and entities designated by, or in accordance with Executive Order 13224, issued by the President of the United States on September 23, 2001, or Executive Order 13268, issued on July 2, 2002.

The bill requires the Ohio SOS to compile the registry using the “best information available,” to publish it on the SOS website, and periodically to update it.

### **Protected property**

The bill’s prohibitions apply to (1) land suitable for use in agriculture, including any water, air space, and natural products and deposits in, on, or over the land, and (2) real property located within 25 miles of any military base, camp, airport, or similar installation in Ohio and under the jurisdiction of the armed forces. Under continuing law, “armed forces” includes all of the following:

- The army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, or any reserve components of those forces;
- The national guard of any state;
- The commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service;
- The merchant marine service during wartime;
- The Ohio organized militia when engaged in full-time national guard duty for a period exceeding 30 days;
- Other services that may be designated by Congress.<sup>256</sup>

### **Exceptions**

The bill provides for four exceptions to the general prohibition against registered persons acquiring protected property. First, as indicated above, registered persons are not required to divest of protected property interests acquired before the effective date of the prohibition. Second, the bill allows a registered person to acquire protected property through devise or descent. However, a registered person must divest itself of all right, title, and interest in the protected property within two years from the date of acquisition. Third, the bill allows a registered person to acquire protected property through process of law in the collection of debts,

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<sup>256</sup> R.C. 5903.01, not in the bill.

by a deed in lieu of foreclosure, pursuant to a forfeiture of a contract for a deed, or by any procedure for the enforcement of a lien or claim on the land or real property. Like the second exception, the registered person must divest itself of all right, title, and interest in the protected property within two years of acquisition. Furthermore, in the case of agricultural land, the land must not be used for any purpose other than agriculture or leased to another registered person, even if that registered person intends to use the land for agriculture. Fourth, the bill allows a registered person to acquire agricultural land that: (1) is not located within 25 miles of a military base, camp, airport or similar installation in Ohio under the jurisdiction of the U.S. armed forces, (2) does not exceed 150 acres, and (3) is acquired for immediate or pending use other than agriculture.

### **Subsequent addition to registry**

A person who acquires protected property in this state, other than by devise or descent, after the provision's effective date and is subsequently added to the SOS's registry is required to divest of all right, title, and interest in the protected property within two years of being added to the registry.

### **Enforcement**

If the SOS finds that a registered person has acquired protected property in violation of the bill's prohibition, the SOS must report the violation to the Attorney General. Upon receiving a report, the Attorney General must initiate an action in the court of common pleas in the county where the protected property is located. If the protected property is located in more than one county, the Attorney General may either initiate a single action in the county in which the majority of the protected property is located or initiate separate actions in each such county.

After the action is initiated, the Attorney General must file a notice of pendency of the action with the country recorder. If the court finds that the protected property was acquired in violation of the bill, the protected property escheats to the state. The clerk of the court must notify the Governor that the title to the protected property is vested in the state by the court. The property must be sold at public auction in the same manner as real property foreclosed upon due to the owner's failure to pay a debt, except that the registered person has no right of redemption.

After the sale of the land, the proceeds are first used to pay for the court costs and other expenses related to the action initiated by the Attorney General. The remaining proceeds are paid to the registered person whose protected property escheated, but only up to the amount paid by the registered person for the protected property. If any proceeds remain, they are distributed to the general fund of each county in which the protected property is located in proportion to the percentage of the territory located in each such county.

### **Name and purpose**

The bill's prohibitions are named the Save our Farmland and Protect our National Security Act. The bill stipulates that the purposes of the restrictions is to recognize that Ohio has a substantial and compelling interests in protecting both its agricultural production and military defense.