

Highways and Transportation

Am. H.B. 154

Reps. Henne and Sheehy, Stinziano, Grossman, Clyde, Perales, Duffey, Zeltwanger, K. Smith, Brenner, Lepore-Hagan, Fedor, Bishoff, Retherford, Antonio, Arndt, Ashford, Barnes, Boggs, Boyd, Brown, Celebrezze, Craig, Driehaus, Leland, Manning, M. O'Brien, S. O'Brien, Patterson, Phillips, Ramos, Rogers, Sprague, Strahorn, Sweeney

Sens. Bacon, LaRose, Gentile, Balderson, Skindell, Tavares, Thomas

Effective date: March 21, 2017

- Requires a vehicle operator at an intersection where the traffic control signal is malfunctioning (including the failure of a vehicle detector to detect the vehicle) to follow the procedures that apply when a signal fails to assign the right-of-way.
- Requires the operator of a vehicle that is passing a bicycle to pass at a distance of three feet or greater.

Am. Sub. H.B. 341

Reps. Young and Sweeney, Becker, Boose, Hall, Retherford, Terhar, Thompson, Amstutz, Barnes, Boyd, Conditt, Dever, Green, Grossman, Hambley, Howse, G. Johnson, Rogers

Sens. LaRose, Eklund, Gardner, Hackett, Hite, Seitz, Yuko

Effective date: April 6, 2017

Towing and storage fees

- Eliminates the statutorily prescribed maximum fees for the removal and storage of a vehicle towed from private property or a private tow-away zone, and authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to establish new fees by rule.
- Requires the Commission to establish a process for reviewing the fees every five years and to adjust any fee that it determines is not just, reasonable, or compensatory.
- Allows a municipal corporation to establish towing and storage fees for the removal of a vehicle from private property, other than a private tow-away zone, that differ from those established by the Commission.
- Specifies that a lienholder that reclaims a vehicle towed from a private tow-away zone is not required to pay storage fees for any period of time before the lienholder received a notice indicating that the vehicle had been towed.

- Generally authorizes a towing service or storage facility to charge an after-hours retrieval fee for the retrieval of personal items from a vehicle that was towed from private property or from the street or after coming into the possession of law enforcement.
- Generally allows a person to use a major credit card to pay a "drop fee," which is a reduced fee that may be paid to a towing service for the release of a vehicle that has been prepared for removal but not yet removed from private property or a private tow-away zone.

Other towing provisions

- Modifies the civil penalties that a court may impose on a towing service or storage facility for certain towing violations when a vehicle owner brings a civil action against the towing service or storage facility.
- Eliminates the requirement that a storage facility remain open if a towing service is towing a vehicle from private property or from the street or after coming into the possession of law enforcement and the vehicle will be held by the storage facility.
- Eliminates the requirement that a storage facility ensure that, within three hours of receiving a call from the owner of a vehicle towed from private property or from the street or after coming into the possession of law enforcement, a representative is available to release the vehicle.
- Authorizes an insurance company to bring a civil action against a towing service to recover a motor vehicle that has been towed, objecting to the amount billed by the towing service, or both.
- Prohibits a towing service from permitting the operation of a towing vehicle on its behalf unless the towing service holds a valid certificate of public convenience and necessity.
- Prohibits a towing service from removing a vehicle from a private tow-away zone if the towing service does not have a written contract with the owner of the property.
- Prohibits a towing service from knowingly offering or providing monetary compensation in exchange for authorization to tow motor vehicles from a specified location or on behalf of the person to whom it offered or provided compensation.
- Allows a towing service to deliver a vehicle towed from private property or a private tow-away zone to a place of storage after the required two-hour delivery window if the delay is due to an uncontrollable force, natural disaster, or unforeseeable event.

- Requires a towing service, storage facility, or repair facility, in specified circumstances, to notify the owner of a towed vehicle that if the owner disputes that the motor vehicle was lawfully towed the owner may be able to file a civil action.
- Extends the deadline by which a towing service or storage facility must notify the owner of a vehicle that the vehicle has been towed from a private tow-away zone.
- Extends the deadline by which the sheriff or chief of police must notify the owner of a vehicle that the vehicle has been ordered into storage by law enforcement.
- Prohibits the owner of a motor vehicle that has been towed from retrieving personal items from the vehicle if it would endanger the safety of the owner, unless the owner agrees to sign a waiver of liability.
- Modifies the requirement that a towing service provide a written estimate for towing services under specified circumstances, so that the requirement applies only if the estimate is requested.

Salvage title to inoperable vehicles

- Establishes a process by which a repair facility, towing service, or place of storage for towed vehicles may obtain a salvage certificate of title to an inoperable vehicle worth less than \$1,500 for purposes of disposing of the vehicle through a motor vehicle salvage dealer or scrap metal processing facility.

Title to an unclaimed vehicle

- When a repair garage, place of storage, towing service, or storage facility for towed vehicles pays the clerk of courts the value of a vehicle in order to obtain title to the vehicle under continuing law, allows the entity to deduct from the value:
 - A towing fee, if the vehicle was towed by the party seeking title to the vehicle;
and
 - Storage fees for the time the vehicle was stored without payment.
- Specifies that a repair garage or place of storage may take title to a vehicle even if the person who requested the repair or who agreed to the storage is not an owner or a lienholder of the vehicle.

Notice from salvage vehicle auction

- Requires a salvage motor vehicle auction that is seeking a salvage title to a vehicle to send a written request for the removal of the vehicle to its owner and any known lienholder using a nationally recognized courier service, rather than by certified mail, return receipt requested, as under prior law.

Sub. H.B. 378

Reps. Hambley and Rezabek, Arndt, Boose, Brown, Conditt, LaTourette, Manning, McColley, M. O'Brien, Schuring, Slaby, Rogers, Leland, Sweeney

Sens. Uecker, Burke, Eklund

Effective date: April 6, 2017

- Grants a township officer who serves a township with a population of 50,000 or less the authority to make an arrest on a highway that is part of the national highway system, but that is not an interstate highway.

Sub. H.B. 429

Reps. Antani and Reineke, Duffey, Hackett, Young, Grossman, Baker, Barnes, Anielski, Antonio, Arndt, Ashford, Boyd, Brown, Burkley, Craig, Derickson, Dovilla, Driehaus, Fedor, Hambley, Howse, Kuhns, Kunze, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, McClain, M. O'Brien, S. O'Brien, Patterson, Reece, Rogers, Schaffer, Sheehy, K. Smith, Sprague, Thompson

Sens. LaRose, Manning, Bacon, Balderson, Beagle, Brown, Coley, Eklund, Faber, Hottinger, Hughes, Jones, Lehner, Oelslager, Tavares, Thomas, Uecker, Yuko

Effective date: September 14, 2016; Sections 3 and 4 effective January 1, 2017

- Defines autocycle (for example, the Polaris Slingshot or Campagna T-Rex) for purposes of the Motor Vehicles Law.
- Exempts autocycle operators and passengers from specified equipment requirements that apply to motorcycle operators and passengers, includes autocycles as eligible for specified nonstandard license plates, and applies other regulatory requirements to autocycles.
- Qualifies automotive or motor vehicle technicians for the Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program if they satisfy other Program requirements.
- Qualifies employers of automotive or motor vehicle technicians as eligible employers under the Program if other requirements for participation are satisfied.
- Expands the definition of "treat" and "treatment" as applied to hazardous waste, to include, in part, neutralization.
- Specifies that for purposes of the definition, rendering hazardous waste for further treatment or disposal does not constitute "treat" or "treatment."

Sub. H.B. 455

Reps. Patterson and Roegner, M. O'Brien, Rogers, Arndt, Anielski, Antonio, Baker, Bishoff, Brown, Buchy, Conditt, Dovilla, Driehaus, Hambley, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, S. O'Brien, Perales, K. Smith, Strahorn, Vitale

Sens. Cafaro, LaRose, Manning, Yuko, Bacon, Coley, Eklund, Faber, Hackett, Hite, Hughes, Lehner, Oelslager, Patton, Sawyer, Thomas, Williams

Effective date: April 6, 2017

Speed limit changes

- Authorizes the legislative authority of a municipal corporation or township in which a boarding school is located to establish a "boarding school zone."
- Allows the legislative authority to alter the speed limit on any street or highway within the boarding school zone and to specify the hours during which the altered speed limit applies.
- Establishes a 35 mph speed limit for county and township through highways located within national parks that span two or more counties (Cuyahoga Valley National Park).

Regional airport authority, port authority meetings

- Allows the boards of regional airport authorities and of port authorities to hold meetings by interactive video conference or by teleconference, regardless of the Open Meetings Act's requirements.
- Requires such a board, if it wishes to hold meetings by interactive video conference or teleconference, to adopt rules that, at a minimum, require meetings to be conducted in a certain manner.

Designated highways and nonstandard license plates

- Designates multiple memorial highways.
- Creates multiple nonstandard license plates.

Sub. S.B. 60

Sens. Hughes, Bacon, Eklund, Oelslager, Patton, Seitz, Tavares, Williams, LaRose, Cafaro, Yuko, Balderson, Coley, Faber, Gardner, Hite, Jordan, Lehner, Manning, Obhof

Reps. Green, Anielski, Antonio, Ashford, Baker, Bishoff, Blessing, Boccieri, Boggs, Boyce, Brenner, Brown, Buchy, Celebrezze, Craig, Cupp, Curtin, Dever, DeVitis, Dovilla, Duffey, Gonzales, Grossman, Hackett, Hall, Hill, Hood, T. Johnson, Kunze, Landis, Maag, McClain, Perales, Retherford, Roegner, Rogers, Ruhl, Schaffer, Scherer, Schuring, Sears, Sheehy, R. Smith, Sprague, Strahorn, Sweeney, Sykes, Young

Effective date: May 17, 2016

- Designates a portion of I-670 in Columbus, running in an easterly and westerly direction between Fourth Street and I-70, as the "Dana G. 'Buck' Rinehart Memorial Highway."

Am. Sub. S.B. 159

Sens. Hughes, Patton, LaRose, Bacon, Brown, Burke, Cafaro, Coley, Eklund, Hite, Jordan, Lehner, Obhof, Peterson, Thomas, Widener, Balderson, Faber, Gardner, Hackett, Manning, Sawyer, Skindell, Yuko

Reps. Amstutz, Anielski, Antani, Antonio, Ashford, Baker, Barnes, Bishoff, Boccieri, Boggs, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Buchy, Burkley, Butler, Celebrezze, Clyde, Craig, Derickson, Dever, DeVitis, Dovilla, Driehaus, Duffey, Fedor, Ginter, Green, Grossman, Hall, Hayes, Hill, G. Johnson, Kuhns, Kunze, LaTourette, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, McClain, M. O'Brien, Patterson, Perales, Phillips, Ramos, Reineke, Retherford, Roegner, Rogers, Ruhl, Ryan, Schaffer, Schuring, Sears, Sheehy, Slaby, Slesnick, K. Smith, R. Smith, Sprague, Strahorn, Sweeney, Sykes, Thompson, Young, Rosenberger

Effective date: September 14, 2016

- Beginning January 1, 2018, requires county identification stickers for license plates to identify the county by name only, rather than by name and number.
- Creates 18 new nonstandard license plates and amends two nonstandard license plates previously created.
- Designates a portion of State Route 2 in Cuyahoga County as the "Governor Richard F. Celeste Shoreway."
- Renames the Port Columbus International Airport as the John Glenn Columbus International Airport.

Sub. S.B. 182

Sens. Balderson and Peterson, Gardner, Hughes, LaRose, Tavares, Yuko, Thomas, Eklund, Seitz, Beagle, Schiavoni, Patton, Manning, Uecker, Brown, Bacon, Burke, Cafaro, Coley, Faber, Hite, Hottinger, Jones, Jordan, Lehner, Obhof, Oelslager, Sawyer, Skindell, Widener, Williams, Hackett

Reps. Boose, Green, Sheehy, Arndt, DeVitis, Dovilla, T. Johnson, Lepore-Hagan, Anielski, Antonio, Ashford, Baker, Bishoff, Blessing, Boccieri, Boggs, Boyce, Brenner, Brown, Buchy, Burkley, Butler, Celebrezze, Cera, Clyde, Craig, Curtin, Derickson, Dever, Driehaus, Duffey, Fedor, Ginter, Hagan, Hall, Hayes, Henne, Hill, Hood, Kuhns, Kunze, Landis, LaTourette, Leland, Maag, Manning, McClain, McColley, M. O'Brien, Patterson, Perales, Phillips, Reece, Reineke, Retherford, Roegner, Rogers, Romanchuk, Ryan, Schaffer, Scherer, Schuring, Slaby, Slesnick, K. Smith, R. Smith, Sprague, Strahorn, Sweeney, Sykes, Terhar, Thompson, Vitale, Young

Effective date: August 5, 2016

- Designates one new bridge and 27 new memorial roadways.
- Clarifies the bridge designated the "George V. Voinovich Bridge," as both the eastbound and westbound bridges that will span the Cuyahoga River in Cuyahoga County and will be part of I-90.

Am. S.B. 207

Sens. Coley, Manning, LaRose, Uecker, Brown, Yuko, Bacon, Beagle, Burke, Cafaro, Eklund, Faber, Gardner, Hite, Hottinger, Hughes, Jones, Jordan, Lehner, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton, Peterson, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Seitz, Skindell, Tavares, Thomas, Widener, Williams, Hackett

Reps. Green, Antani, Dever, Dovilla, Anielski, Antonio, Baker, Barnes, Blessing, Boccieri, Boyd, Celebrezze, Cera, Clyde, Craig, DeVitis, Gonzales, Hall, Hayes, G. Johnson, Kuhns, Kunze, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, M. O'Brien, Patterson, Perales, Ramos, Retherford, Rogers, Ruhl, Sheehy, Sprague, Strahorn, Sweeney, Sykes

Effective date: April 6, 2017

- Designates and amends multiple memorial highways.
- Creates and amends multiple special license plates.