

Public Safety and Homeland Security

H.B. 285

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Greenspan and Brent

Effective date: September 15, 2020

- Establishes a permanent Driver's License Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program as an expansion of the temporary reduction and amnesty initiative that operated in 2019.
- Specifies that, under the program, eligible persons may have their driver's licenses reinstated after a suspension by paying reduced reinstatement fees or receiving a complete waiver of those fees.
- Requires the Director of Public Safety to administer the program.
- Separates the program into two phases:
 - First phase: for suspensions that occurred prior to the act's September 15, 2020, effective date;
 - Second phase: for suspensions that occur after that date.
- Establishes eligibility requirements for participation in the program (e.g., the underlying offense, when the offense occurred, and prior participation in the program).
- Establishes qualifications for a reduction or a complete waiver of fees, based on whether the person participates in specified government aid programs.
- Requires the Director to identify eligible participants and to send an eligible person an automatic notice that the person has been enrolled in the program.
- Allows a person to apply for the program if that person believes he or she is eligible, but did not receive the Director's notice.
- Specifies that any person who receives a reduction or complete waiver of reinstatement fees is not eligible for a subsequent reduction or waiver through the program.
- Generally specifies that a person's driver's license may be reinstated after the person receives a waiver or is placed on a payment plan under the program.
- Requires the Director to make information about the program available on the Department of Public Safety and Bureau of Motor Vehicle websites and to establish a toll-free telephone number for information about the program.

H.B. 295

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Hoops

Effective date: April 15, 2021

Low-speed micromobility devices

- Permits the use of a low-speed micromobility device (for example, an electric scooter) on public streets, highways, sidewalks, shared-use paths, and bicycle-only areas, subject to specific operational requirements.
- Notwithstanding the state requirements, authorizes certain political subdivisions and the Department of Natural Resources to regulate the operation of low-speed micromobility devices or prohibit the devices within their jurisdiction.
- Specifies that a low-speed micromobility device is a device with handlebars that weighs less than 100 pounds, is propelled by an electric motor or human power, and has an attainable speed on a paved surface of 20 mph or less when using an electric motor.
- States that low-speed micromobility devices are not vehicles and, as such, exempts them from state registration, title, insurance, and certain traffic and equipment law requirements.

Law enforcement use of e-bikes

- Authorizes a law enforcement officer to use an electric bicycle (e-bike) on specified paths and sidewalks, including when the use of the e-bike is otherwise prohibited, provided the e-bike is being used in the performance of the officer's duties.

Personal delivery devices

- Increases the maximum empty-weight limit of personal delivery devices authorized to be used in Ohio from 90 pounds to 200 pounds.

Unsafe used tires

- Decriminalizes and makes it no longer designated an unconscionable consumer sales act or practice to install unsafe used tires on a passenger car that is not designed primarily for carrying passengers, a multipurpose passenger vehicle, or a truck.
- Allows the vehicles specified above to be outfitted legally with retread tires, which otherwise fall under the meaning of an unsafe used tire.

S.B. 68

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Williams

Effective date: April 12, 2021

Reinstatement fees

- Authorizes a court that suspends a driver's license to allow an offender to complete a community service program in lieu of paying driver's license reinstatement fees when the court determines the offender cannot reasonably pay those fees.
- Authorizes the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to adopt rules to create an ongoing reinstatement fee waiver plan through which an indigent person may apply for and receive a waiver of all reinstatement fees.

Police and driver interaction education

- Requires the Attorney General to adopt rules requiring continuing education for existing peace officers on proper interactions with civilians during traffic stops and other encounters.
- Requires the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to recommend rules to the Attorney General for peace officer basic training on proper interactions with civilians during traffic stops and other encounters.
- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt a model curriculum for high school students on proper interactions with peace officers during traffic stops and other encounters.
- Requires school districts and other public schools to use the State Board's model curriculum in at least one course required for high school graduation.
- Requires the Director of Public Safety to adapt the State Board's model curriculum for use in driver training programs and new driver instructional materials.

Power of attorney for vehicle title transactions

- Authorizes a motor vehicle dealer's employee or agent to serve as a witness to a power of attorney created for the purpose of transferring the title of a motor vehicle.
- Specifies that being "present" for witnessing a signature includes witnessing a signature via audio-visual conference technology.

CDL medical examiner's certificates

- Requires the Registrar to post information from a medical examiner's certificate, when required, on a commercial driver's license (CDL) holder's CDL information system driver record within ten calendar days of receipt of the medical certificate.

BMV electronic and online transactions

- Expands the services that the Registrar or a deputy registrar may provide electronically (for example an electronic kiosk at a deputy registrar's location), and allows the Registrar to establish a convenience fee for such services.
- Allows the Registrar and, with the Registrar's permission, a deputy registrar to offer any service or transaction (that they are authorized or required to conduct) online rather than in person (there is no specific authorization to charge a convenience fee for remote online transactions).
- Requires any charges for online transactions to be the same as the associated in-person transaction.
- Allows the Registrar or deputy registrar to accept payment for such charges by an electronic financial transaction device (i.e., a credit or debit card) and to pass along any associated costs to the person using that device.

Third-party administration of skills test

- Authorizes the Director of Public Safety to allow a third party to administer the driver's license skills test.
- Requires any test administered by a third party to be substantially the same as the test administered by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).
- Enumerates quality control provisions that must be included in any contract with a third party to conduct the driver's license skills test.

Abbreviated driver training

- Exempts an adult applicant for an initial driver's license who fails the skills test from the requirement to complete the adult abbreviated driving training course if, within the 12 months prior to application, the applicant completed a full driver training course.

Reprints

- Authorizes a person who holds a valid Ohio credential (i.e., a learner's permit, driver's license, CDL, motorcycle operator's permit, motorized bicycle license, or state identification card) issued after July 2, 2018, to obtain an exact reprint of it.
- Requires an applicant to certify that the current Ohio credential has been lost, destroyed, or mutilated and to provide identifying information, as required by the Registrar.
- Requires the Registrar to conduct transactions for a reprint Ohio credential online via the BMV website by October 11, 2021.
- Specifies the appearance and cost of the reprint.

Eight-year renewal

- Authorizes a person between age 21 and 65 to apply for and renew an Ohio CDL, driver's license (motor vehicles and motorcycles), motorcycle operator's endorsement, or motorized bicycle license on an eight-year renewal cycle.
- Authorizes a person, regardless of age, to request and renew an Ohio identification card on an eight-year renewal cycle.
- Makes the cost of an eight-year license, endorsement, or card twice the cost of a four-year license, endorsement, or card, minus \$1.
- Makes the eight-year renewal option available beginning July 1, 2021.

Orthotics and prosthetics licensure

- Permits the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board to issue an orthotics, prosthetics, or orthotics and prosthetics license to an applicant with unique and exceptional qualifications.
- Requires the Board to adopt rules establishing requirements for license eligibility based on the applicant's unique and exceptional qualifications, including standards for evidence of the applicant's qualifications through education, experience, or training.
- Requires the Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics Advisory Council to issue recommendations to the Board on requirements to issue a license to an applicant with unique and exceptional qualifications.

