

Highways and Transportation

H.B. 30

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Wiggam and Kick

Effective date: August 31, 2022

- Alters slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem and reflective tape requirements that apply to animal-drawn vehicles by requiring the operator to equip and display, at all times, at least one of the following on the rear of the vehicle:
 - An SMV emblem;
 - Micro-prism reflective tape (in red, amber, white, or silver); or
 - Both an SMV emblem and micro-prism tape.
- Requires an animal-drawn vehicle operator, when on a street or highway, also to equip and display, at all times, one flashing lamp displaying yellow light.
- Specifies that the yellow flashing light must be mounted on the top-most portion of the rear of the animal-drawn vehicle and must be visible from all sides.
- Retains the requirement that an animal-drawn vehicle operator equip and display the following from sunset to sunrise and during periods of low visibility:
 - At least one white lamp to the front; and
 - Two red lamps to the rear or, as an alternative, one red lamp and two red reflectors.
- Exempts animal-drawn agricultural equipment from the lighting and reflective tape requirements, including the act's yellow light requirement, if the operator is not transporting any livestock or another person.
- Reorganizes and recodifies the law governing all slow-moving vehicles.

H.B. 291

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Callender and Troy

Effective date: July 21, 2022

- Designates 25 memorial highways and bridges and revises the name of one memorial highway.
- Creates eight specialty license plates.

H.B. 338

(For details of the act's fiscal provisions see, the [LSC Final Fiscal Note \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the General Assembly's website, legislature.ohio.gov.)

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Hoops

Effective date: August 31, 2022; appropriations effective June 1, 2022

Motorcycle safety and education programs

- Allows a private motorcycle safety and education program to use a final end-of-course skills exam that is different from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) final exam, provided the exam meets or exceeds the DPS requirements.
- Exempts a private program's instructors from DPS instructor training, provided the instructor is trained by a third party and the training meets or exceeds DPS training.
- Requires the DPS Director to evaluate all private programs (in addition to the state's program, Motorcycle Ohio) every two years, including inspecting their facilities, equipment, training course, curriculum, and procedures.
- Authorizes the Director to suspend or revoke authorization for a private program that fails to maintain the curriculum, standards, and any other requirements specified during its initial authorization.
- Establishes the following fees:
 - \$400 (one-time) for initial authorization of a private motorcycle safety and education program that is authorized after August 31, 2022;
 - \$50 (one-time) for initial certification of a private program instructor; and
 - \$175 (every two years) for the two-year evaluation of a program by DPS.
- Requires the tuition fees collected for Motorcycle Ohio to be deposited into the Motorcycle Safety and Education Fund.

BMV fees

- Renames a fee that the Registrar of Motor Vehicles may charge for using electronic, digital, online, or similar programs that provide Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) services as a "convenience fee."
- Allows a convenience fee to be itemized separately from all other BMV taxes and fees.
- Requires all convenience fees to be deposited into the Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund.
- Prohibits the Registrar or deputy registrar from charging a convenience fee for a new program if a convenience fee is already authorized for the specific BMV service provided by that program.

- Authorizes a motor vehicle seller, in a noncasual sale, to pass along the cost of the convenience fee to the buyer.
- Authorizes the DPS Director, through rules, to establish fees that a third party authorized to administer the driver's license skills test may charge.
- Expressly authorizes the third party to charge a fee for administering the skills test if the Director does not adopt rules establishing the fee amount, but prohibits the fee from exceeding the cost to administer the test.
- Corrects an inconsistency pertaining to the deputy registrar fee charged for a driver's license in which that fee was combined with the vision-screening fee.

CDL temporary instruction permit knowledge test

- Requires the Registrar to adopt rules authorizing the waiver of the knowledge test, which is generally required to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL) temporary instruction permit, for specified current and former military service members, in accordance with the federal regulations.
- Corrects an outdated reference to federal law related to the skills test waiver for current and former military service members.

Regional transit authorities

- Allows a regional transit authority (RTA) to issue revenue bonds supported by the proceeds of the RTA's sales tax.
- Expands the scope of activities available to an RTA with territory that includes a county with a population of at least 1.3 million, i.e., the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA).

Toll violations between states

- Allows the Governor or the Governor's designee, in consultation with the DPS Director, to enter reciprocal agreements with other states regarding enforcement of motor vehicle toll violations.
- Requires that the agreement include, as one enforcement mechanism for toll violations, the refusal of an application for or refusal of the transfer of a motor vehicle registration.

Brent Spence Bridge

- Authorizes the Director of Transportation to award design/build contracts up to a total of \$1.5 billion with respect to the Brent Spence Bridge project.
- Requires the Director to apply to the Controlling Board if the contracts will exceed the \$1.5 billion threshold.
- Authorizes the Director to compensate not more than three bidders for preparing a responsive preliminary design concept for the project.

- Specifies that the act’s contracting authority is for purposes of applying for federal funding, and that any subsequent awards of that funding requires approval by the General Assembly for specific appropriations.

Appropriations

- Appropriates \$690.9 million in federal funds, from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, to the Department of Transportation for highway construction and public transit for FY 2023.
- Makes various GRF operating appropriations for the Departments of Natural Resources, Public Safety, and Veterans Services and the Ohio History Connection.
- Modifies the funding source for the Lorain Pier Planning Project to GRF from debt-backed funding sources.

H.B. 578

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Roemer

Effective date: April 6, 2023

- Designates 44 memorial highways and bridges.
- Modifies the designations of two existing memorial highways.
- Creates 15 new specialty license plates.
- Modifies four existing specialty license plates.