
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Hunting and fishing license fees

- Authorizes the Chief of the Division of Wildlife to adopt in rules, with the approval of the Director of Natural Resources and the Wildlife Council, establishing fees (in lieu of the statutorily imposed fees) for certain recreational hunting and fishing licenses and permits.

Oil and Gas Leasing Commission administrative costs

- Authorizes the existing Geological Mapping Fund to be used for the administration of the Oil and Gas Leasing Commission.

Transfers from the Waterways Safety and Wildlife Funds

- Authorizes the Controlling Board to transfer cash balances in excess of needs from the existing Waterways Safety Fund and Wildlife Fund to the GRF or other specified funds (current law prohibits the Controlling Board from transferring cash balances in this manner).
- Allows the Controlling Board, as a result of the above authorization, to manage federal money deposited into the Funds in the same manner as other specified funds.

Scenic Rivers Protection Fund

- Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to collect donations for the protection and enhancement of Ohio's scenic rivers and deposit those donations into the Scenic Rivers Protection Fund.

“Ohio Geology” License Plate Fund

- Eliminates the “Ohio Geology” License Plate Fund and transfers the money from that fund to the Geological Mapping Fund.
- Specifies that the contributions from “Ohio Geology” license plates must still be used primarily for grants to state college and university geology departments and secondarily for providing geological kits to state elementary and secondary school, as in current law.

Mine Safety Fund

- Eliminates the defunct Mine Safety Fund.

Hunting and fishing license fees

(R.C. 1533.09, 1533.10, 1533.11, 1533.111, 1533.112, 1533.32, and 1533.321 and makes conforming changes to R.C. 1533.09, renumbered as R.C. 1533.06)

The bill authorizes the Chief of the Division of Wildlife to adopt in rules, with the approval of the Director of Natural Resources and the Wildlife Council, establishing fees (in lieu of the statutorily imposed fees) for all of the following:

1. Hunting licenses, including small game hunting licenses;

2. Deer and wild turkey permits;
3. Fur taker permits;
4. Wetland habitat stamps;
5. Fishing licenses; and
6. Multi-year fishing and hunting licenses.

The bill increases the fees for all of the following until the Chief adopts rules establishing alternative fees:

1. An annual fishing license fee from \$18 to \$24 for an Ohio resident;
2. An annual fishing license fee from \$18 to \$24 for a nonresident who is a resident of a state with which Ohio has an agreement to charge resident fee rates (reciprocal state);
3. A three-day tourist fishing license from \$18 to \$24 for a nonresident who is not a resident of a reciprocal state;
4. A one-day fishing license fee from \$10 to \$13 (55% of the three-day tourist fishing license);
5. An annual deer permit fee from \$23 to \$30 for an Ohio resident;
6. An annual youth deer permit fee from \$11.50 to \$15 for an Ohio resident under 18;
7. An annual wild turkey permit fee from \$23 to \$30 for an Ohio resident; and
8. An annual wild turkey permit fee from \$28 to \$37 for a nonresident.

The bill decreases the fees for both of the following until the Chief adopts rules establishing alternative fees:

1. An annual deer permit fee from \$74 to \$15 for a nonresident youth under 18 (the same as Ohio resident youths under the bill); and
2. An annual wild turkey permit fee from \$28 to \$15 for a nonresident youth under 18 (the same as Ohio resident youths under the bill).

The bill also specifies that except for the \$9.00 nonresident youth hunting license fee, the annual fee for nonresidents applying for a hunting license, fishing license, or deer permit through December 31, 2019, is the fee specified in the fee schedule established in H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly as follows:

License or permit type	Cost in 2019
Hunting license – nonresident, and not a resident of a reciprocal state	\$157
Apprentice hunting license – nonresident, and not a resident of a reciprocal state	\$157

License or permit type	Cost in 2019
Fishing license – nonresident, and not a resident of a reciprocal state	\$46
Deer permit – nonresident	\$57

Oil and Gas Leasing Commission administrative costs

(R.C. 1505.09)

The bill authorizes the existing Geological Mapping Fund, which is administered by the Chief of the Division of Geological Survey, to be used for the administration of the Oil and Gas Leasing Commission. Currently, only the Oil and Gas Leasing Commission Administration Fund may be used for that purpose. However, that fund does not have any money in it. In addition, the Chief of the Division of Geological Survey serves as the chairperson of the Oil and Gas Leasing Commission.

Transfers from the Waterways Safety and Wildlife Funds

(R.C. 127.14 and 131.35)

The bill authorizes the Controlling Board to transfer cash balances in excess of needs from the existing Waterways Safety Fund and Wildlife Fund to the GRF or other specified funds. Current law prohibits the Controlling Board from transferring cash balances in this manner.

As a result of the above authorization, the bill allows the Controlling Board to manage federal money deposited into the Funds in the same manner as other specified funds.

Scenic Rivers Protection Fund

(R.C. 4501.24 and 4503.56, not in the bill)

The bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to collect donations for the Scenic Rivers Protection Fund to be used to help finance conservation efforts, education, corridor protection, restoration, and habitat enhancement and clean-up projects along the wild, scenic, and recreational river areas. Under current law, the fund's only source of revenue comes from contributions collected from the sale of "Scenic Rivers" License Plates. The contribution amount for those license plates is \$40 each time a person voluntarily applies for or renews his or her motor vehicle registration.

"Ohio Geology" License Plate Fund

(R.C. 1505.09 and 4503.515, not in the bill; R.C. 1505.12 and 1505.13, repealed)

The bill eliminates the "Ohio Geology" License Plate Fund and transfers the money currently directed to it to the Geological Mapping Fund. The bill does not change the current contribution amount or purposes of the contribution, only the fund into which the contributions are directed.

The "Ohio Geology" License Plate cannot be requested in a new application for motor vehicle registration. It can only be renewed because fewer than 25 individuals currently have

and consistently renew the plates. The plate has a \$15 annual contribution, which are used primarily for annual grants to state college and university geology departments for research conducted at locations of geological interest in the state. The Director of Natural Resources also may use contributions to provide materials such as rock and mineral kits to elementary and secondary schools to assist students in geological studies.

Mine Safety Fund

(R.C. 1561.24, repealed, makes conforming changes in R.C. 1561.011)

The bill eliminates the Mine Safety Fund. Current law authorizes money to be transferred to the Fund from the Coal-Workers Pneumoconiosis Fund by the Administrator of Workers' Compensation to be used for mine safety purposes. However, the Mine Safety Fund has not received any transfers since 2012.