
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Hunting and fishing license fees

- Increases certain recreational hunting and fishing licenses and permits fees, but decreases nonresident youth deer permit and wild turkey permit fees.

Transfers from the Waterways Safety and Wildlife Funds

- Authorizes the Controlling Board, at the request of the Director, to approve the expenditure of the federal revenue received in the Waterways Safety Fund or Wildlife Fund for purposes for which the federal revenue was granted.
- Eliminates the Controlling Board's authority to make transfers of nonfederal revenue received into those 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 specified in current law.

Mine Safety Fund

- Eliminates the defunct Mine Safety Fund.

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.

Oil and gas

- Prohibits a person from operating an oil and gas well without first registering with and obtaining an identification number from the Chief of the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management.
- Requires an assignee or transferee of an oil and gas lease that includes a well to notify the Division of that assignment or transfer if:
 - The assignor or transferor failed to provide the notice as required by current law; and

--The assignor or transferor is deceased, dissolved, cannot be found, or is otherwise incapable of providing the notice.

- Specifies that when the assignee or transferee provides the notice to the Division, the assignee or transferee must attest to ownership of the lease and is not required to pay a notice fee.
- Eliminates the \$100 nonrefundable fees that must be paid by the assignor or transferor of an oil and gas lease when notifying the Division of the assignment or transfer and when submitting an application for the assignment or transfer of a well.
- Alters the manner by which the quarterly oil and gas regulatory cost recovery assessment is calculated for well owners.
- Clarifies when an appeal of a Chief's order must be made to the Oil and Gas Commission by specifying that a person to whom the order is issued must make the appeal within 30 days after receiving the order.
- Eliminates the requirement that the Chief's order be sent via certified mail.

Hunting and fishing license fees

(R.C. 1533.10, 1533.11, 1533.111, 1533.112, 1533.32, and 1533.321; Section 715.10)

The bill increases the fees for all of the following recreational hunting and fishing licenses and permits:

- An annual fishing license fee from \$18 to \$24 for an Ohio resident;
- 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);
- A three-day tourist fishing license from \$18 to \$24 for a nonresident who is not a resident of a reciprocal state;
- A one-day fishing license fee from \$10 to \$13 (55% of the three-day tourist fishing license);
- An annual deer permit fee from \$23 to \$30 for an Ohio resident;
- An annual youth deer permit fee from \$11.50 to \$15 for an Ohio resident under 18;
- An annual wild turkey permit fee from \$23 to \$30 for an Ohio resident; and
- An annual wild turkey permit fee from \$28 to \$37 for a nonresident.

The bill decreases the fees for both of the following nonresident youth permits:

- 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

- 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
Fishing license – nonresident, and not a resident of a reciprocal state	\$46
Deer permit – nonresident	\$57

Transfers from Waterways Safety and Wildlife funds

(R.C. 131.35)

The bill authorizes the Controlling Board, at the request of the Director, to approve the expenditure of the federal revenue received in the Waterways Safety Fund or Wildlife Fund for purposes for which the federal revenue was granted. Current law puts stipulations on the expenditure of federal revenue received by the state.

The bill also eliminates the Controlling Board’s authority to make transfers of nonfederal revenue received into those funds. Current law authorizes the Controlling Board to make transfers of nonfederal revenue received into the 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 a 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.

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.

Oil and gas

Registration and identification and transfer and assignment

(R.C. 1509.31)

The bill prohibits a person from operating an oil and gas well without first registering with and obtaining an identification number from the Chief of the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management. Thus, if a person transfers or assigns a well to another person, that other person (the assignee or transferee) is prohibited from operating the well until the assignee or transferee registers and obtains the identification number.

The bill also alters the procedures associated with the assignment or transfer of an oil and gas lease. Under current law, whenever the entire interest of an oil and gas lease is assigned or otherwise transferred, the assignor or transferor (person who sold or transferred

the lease) must notify the holders of the royalty interests and, if a well or wells exist on the lease, the Division. The notice must:

- Include specified information, including the name and address of the assignee or transferee;
- Be sent on a form prescribed by the Division by certified mail, return receipt requested, within 30 days of the assignment or transfer;
- Be accompanied with a \$100 nonrefundable notice fee.

The bill eliminates the \$100 nonrefundable notice fee that must be paid by the assignor or transferor of an oil and gas lease (the bill also eliminates a \$100 nonrefundable application fee that must be paid by the assignor or transferor of a well). It also requires an assignee or transferee of an oil and gas lease to notify the Division of the assignment or transfer if (1) the assignor or transferor fails to submit the notice, and (2) the assignor or transferor is deceased, dissolved, cannot be located, or is otherwise incapable of complying with the notification requirement.

The bill specifies that when the assignee or transferee is the individual or entity providing the notice, the assignee or transferee must attest to ownership of the lease. It further specifies that the Division may not charge a fee when the assignee or transferee submits the notice.

Oil and gas regulatory cost recovery assessment

(R.C. 1509.50)

Under current law, the owner of an oil and gas well is subject to an oil and gas cost recovery assessment that is paid quarterly and is based on the amount of oil and gas produced by the well. The bill alters the manner in which the oil and gas regulatory cost recovery assessment is calculated from a formula to a flat rate assessment as follows:

Sub. H.B. 166 flat rate assessment	
Natural gas produced	Oil produced
\$0.005 per 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas for all of the wells of the owner	10¢ per barrel of oil for all of the wells of the owner

Under current law, the assessment is calculated using the following formula:

Current law calculation of the assessment

10¢ per barrel of oil for all the wells of the owner

+

\$0.005 per 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas for all of the wells of the owner

+

Severance tax levied on each severer for all of the wells of the owner

TOTAL

<p>If the TOTAL is greater than the sum of \$15 for each well owned by the owner, the assessment is <u>the sum of 10¢ per barrel of oil for all of the wells of the owner and \$0.005 per 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas for all of the wells of the owner.</u></p>	<p>If the TOTAL is less than the sum of \$15 for each well owned by the owner, the assessment is <u>the sum of \$15 for each well owned by the owner minus the amount of the severance tax levied on each severer for all of the wells of the owner.</u></p>
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Oil and gas appeal process

(R.C. 1509.36)

Under current law, any person adversely affected by an order of the Chief may appeal the order to the Oil and Gas Commission. The appeal must be filed within 30 days after the date on which the appellant received notice of the order by certified mail. Current law presumes that the appellant is the person who received the order. Thus, the bill clarifies that the person to whom the order is issued must file an appeal to the Commission within 30 days after receiving the order. It retains current law that provides that any other adversely affected person must file the appeal within 30 days after the date of the order. It also eliminates the requirement that notice of the Chief's order be sent to the appellant via certified mail.