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## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

### State Fire Marshal CDL exemption

- Exempts a qualified person who operates fire equipment for the State Fire Marshal from the requirement to hold a commercial driver's license (the same exemption applies to a qualified person who operates fire equipment for a local fire department).

### Salvage certificate of title notary exemption

- Exempts a power of attorney (or other appropriate document) from notarization and verification requirements when an insurance company, under certain circumstances, applies for a salvage certificate of title.

### Abolished funds

- Eliminates the Multi-Agency Radio Communications System Fund, which has been in disuse by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) since 2010. DPS previously used the fund for MARCS-related equipment maintenance, which is now conducted by the Department of Administrative Services.
- Eliminates the Public Safety Investigative Unit Salvage and Exchange Fund and redirects money received by the DPS Investigative Unit from the sale of excess motor vehicles and other equipment from that fund to the Ohio Investigative Unit Fund.

### Infrastructure Protection Fund

- Permits DPS to use the funds deposited into the Infrastructure Protection Fund for the Department's operating expenses.

### Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program

- Extends the "Driver's License Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program" to December 31, 2019.

### State Fire Marshal CDL exemption

(R.C. 4506.03)

Under current law, generally, no person may operate a commercial motor vehicle unless the person has a valid commercial driver's license or permit. However, there are several exemptions, which include qualified persons who operate fire equipment for a fire department, volunteer or nonvolunteer fire company, fire district, or joint fire district.

The bill adds the State Fire Marshal to this exemption – that is, a qualified person who operates fire equipment for the State Fire Marshal is not required to hold a commercial driver's license or permit.

## **Salvage certificate of title notary exemption**

(R.C. 4505.11)

Generally, when an insurance company (1) comes into possession of a salvage motor vehicle, (2) declares it economically impractical to repair, (3) has paid for the vehicle, and (4) a physical certificate of title was not issued for the vehicle, the insurance company may nonetheless apply for a certificate of title. This application for a certificate of title must be accompanied by a properly executed power of attorney (or other appropriate document) from the motor vehicle owner. Under current law, these documents must be notarized and verified.

The bill exempts the accompanying power of attorney (or other appropriate document) from notarization and verification requirements. Under current law, only the application, and not the accompanying documents, for the salvage certificate of title is so exempt.

A similar notarization and verification exemption for a power of attorney exists in current law when (1) to (3) above apply but the insurance company obtains the physical certificate of title.

## **MARCS Fund**

(R.C. 4501.16)

The bill eliminates the Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) Fund, which has not been used since 2010. It consisted of money the State Highway Patrol received from MARCS users. DPS previously used the fund to provide maintenance for MARCS-related equipment located at both MARCS facilities and tower sites. This maintenance is now conducted by DAS.

## **Ohio Investigative Unit Fund**

(R.C. 125.13, 4501.10, and 5502.132, not in the bill)

The bill eliminates the Public Safety Investigative Unit Salvage and Exchange Fund and redirects money from that fund to the Ohio Investigative Unit Fund. The redirected money comes from money received by the DPS Investigative Unit from the sale of excess motor vehicles and other equipment. Under current law, unchanged by the bill, the money derived from such sales must be used to purchase replacement motor vehicles and other equipment for the DPS Investigative Unit.

## **Infrastructure Protection Fund**

(R.C. 4737.045)

The bill permits DPS to use the funds deposited into the Infrastructure Protection Fund for DPS's operating expenses. Under current law, the money in the fund may only be used for developing and maintaining the Scrap Metal Dealer Registry. Any person who engages in the business of a scrap metal dealer or a bulk merchandise container dealer in Ohio must register annually with the Director of Public Safety to be included in the Registry. An initial registration costs \$200 and a renewal costs \$150. The registration fees along with any fees paid to recover an impounded vehicle that was used in the theft or illegal transportation of metal, a special

purchase article, or bulk merchandise container are deposited into the Infrastructure Protection Fund.

## **Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program**

(Section 601.07 and 601.08, amending Section 1 of H.B. 336 of the 132<sup>nd</sup> G.A.)

The bill extends the “Driver’s License Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program to December 31, 2019. The program was created during the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly and allows an eligible applicant to either pay a reduced reinstatement fee or receive a complete waiver of all pending reinstatement fees in order for the applicant to have his or her driver’s license reinstated. The program is currently set to expire on July 31, 2019.<sup>126</sup>

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<sup>126</sup> See <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=10202&format=pdf> to learn more about the program.