

# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Legislative Budget Office    Office of Research and Drafting

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## Comparison Document

House Bill 54—136th General Assembly

Transportation Budget

(FY 2026-FY 2027)

As Introduced

As Passed by the House

February 26, 2025

Executive

As Passed By House

**DOTCD27 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices definitions**

R.C. 154.01, 717.02, 4501.01, 4519.401, 5517.02, 5571.01, several sections in Chapter 4511, Repealed: 4511.351, 4511.491

Updates numerous definitions and terms dealing with traffic control devices to conform Ohio law to regulations in the federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Expands the types of highway traffic signal indications for pedestrians and vehicles, including bicycles and public transit vehicles.

Prohibits parking in a bicycle lane.

**Fiscal effect: None.**

R.C. 154.01, 717.02, 4501.01, 4519.401, 5517.02, 5571.01, several sections in Chapter 4511. Repealed: 4511.351, 4511.491

Same as the Executive, but makes clarifying changes to the meanings of "vehicle," "intersection," and "roadway."

Same as the Executive.

Same as the Executive.

**Fiscal effect: None.**

**DOTCD52 RTA contracts with local law enforcement**

No provision.

R.C. 306.35

Requires a regional transit authority (RTA) that has a centralized transfer transportation hub with six or more service routes, and that does not maintain its own transit police department, to contract with one or more local law enforcement entities to enforce laws and ensure safety around the hub.

**Fiscal effect: Potential additional contract costs for RTAs that fit the criteria, do not maintain their own transit police, and do not currently have such contracts.**

**DOTCD40 RTA contract thresholds**

No provision.

R.C. 306.43

Increases the threshold that triggers the requirement that a Regional Transit Authority board approve a contract from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

**Fiscal effect: Uncertain.**

## Executive

## As Passed By House

## DOTCD51 Ohio Airport Improvement Program Fund

R.C. 4561.03, 5736.02, 5736.04, 5736.13; Section 203.49

No provision.

Creates the Ohio Airport Improvement Program Fund (Fund 5CN1) in the state treasury, to be administered by the Office of Aviation. Requires that the fund be used to provide grants to publicly owned, public use airports.

No provision.

Dedicates the portion of the petroleum activity tax receipts derived from the sale and use of aircraft fuel to fund airport improvements for publicly owned, public use airports.

No provision.

Requires the OBM Director, in the same fashion as other motor fuel tax distributions, to make quarterly distributions of the tax on the calculated gross receipts derived from the sale of aircraft fuel to Fund 5CN1.

No provision.

Requires Fund 5CN1 ALI 777628, Ohio Airport Improvement Program, to be used for the Ohio Airport Improvement Program. Reappropriates the unexpended, unencumbered portion of the ALI at the end of FY 2026 for the same purpose in FY 2027.

**Fiscal effect: Department of Taxation estimates suggest that approximately \$4.65 million in each fiscal year would be transferred to Fund 5CN1.**

## DOTCD42 Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact

R.C. 4981.36, 4981.361, Section 203.21

No provision.

Adopts the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact. Enacts provisions governing the Commission's powers and duties. Prescribes the appointing authorities for Ohio's four members (two appointed by the Governor, one member of the House and one member of the Senate) consistent with the Compact.

No provision.

Establishes the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission, and enacts provisions governing the Commission's powers and duties. Prescribes the appointment authority for Ohio's four members on the Commission.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

No provision.

Earmarks \$25,000 in each fiscal year from Fund 7002 ALI 771411, Planning and Research - State, to pay the costs associated with Ohio joining the compact.

## DOTCD50 Division of Advanced Air Mobility

No provision.

## R.C. 5501.041

Requires the ODOT Director to create a Division of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) within ODOT and hire a deputy director for the Division. Requires the Division to focus on: (1) Integrating AAM into state public transportation networks, including through the creation of a state AAM air traffic management system; (2) supporting law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency medical services through establishing AAM operating procedures; and (3) supporting public safety and national security objectives by establishing critical infrastructure protection policies. Authorizes the Division to work with the ODOT Office of Aviation and other federal, state, and local entities.

**Fiscal effect: ODOT could incur costs for appointing a deputy director and administering the Division. The salary for a deputy director, pay range 45, on the state's exempt employee (E2) pay schedule ranges from approximately \$50,000 to \$165,000 annually. There would also be costs for the state's share of retirement, medical, dental, and vision benefits, bringing the total employee cost range to between \$66,000 to \$212,000.**

## DOTCD35 Written performance improvement plans

## R.C. 5501.20

Authorizes, rather than requires, ODOT to place a career professional service employee on a six-month written performance improvement plan for non-egregious, unsatisfactory performance.

## R.C. 5501.20

No provision.

**Executive**

**As Passed By House**

Requires ODOT to take immediate disciplinary action against a career professional service employee whose conduct is egregious (i.e. serious misbehavior, including theft in office, illegal drug use while working, discrimination or harassment, assault, or similar acts) without giving the employee an opportunity to improve performance by means of a written performance improvement plan.

Same as the Executive.

**Fiscal effect: None.**

**Fiscal effect: None.**

**DOTCD55 State Route 315 as a hazardous materials route**

No provision.

**R.C. 5511.11**

Prohibits the ODOT Director from designating a portion of State Route 315 between I-270 and I-70 as a hazardous materials route under federal law, including for non-radioactive hazardous materials.

**Fiscal effect: None.**

**DOTCD34 Modernization and expansion of ODOT Director's procurement authority**

**R.C. 5513.01**

Expands the procurement authority of the ODOT Director to include services along with supplies and products.

**R.C. 5513.01**

Same as the Executive.

Aligns the ODOT Director's procurement authority for supplies, products, and services with that of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) on behalf of other state agencies by: (1) eliminating antiquated notice requirements that required posting notice of proposed purchases on a bulletin board located at ODOT offices in Columbus; (2) eliminating bidding procedures that require producers to notify the Director in writing of products subject to a bid and requiring the Director to mail invitations to bidders; and (3) authorizing the Director to use the DAS electronic procurement system to solicit bids for supplies, products, and services.

Same as the Executive.

**Fiscal effect: May result in lower ODOT administrative costs for procuring supplies, products, and services.**

**Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.**

Executive

As Passed By House

**DOTCD38 Fines for using roads or highways if permit is revoked**

R.C. 5515.01, 5515.99

Prohibits any person from knowingly using or occupying a portion of a road or highway on the state highway system if the Director has revoked the applicable permit. Imposes a fine of not more than \$500 on the first offense and \$2,500 for each subsequent offense.

**Fiscal effect: Potential gain in fine revenue from violations under this section.**

R.C. 5515.01, 5515.99

Same as the Executive.

**Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.**

**DOTCD36 Abandoned telecommunication and utility structures**

R.C. 5515.09, 5515.01, 5515.10, 5515.99

Requires each telecommunications carrier or utility provider intending to abandon a telecommunications or utility structure that occupies a road, state highway, or right-of-way to submit a notification of proposed abandonment to ODOT.

Requires the notification to be made within 30 days of an entity's decision to abandon, and that the notification provide the following: (1) the exact location of structures to be abandoned, (2) any applicable permits and other documentation pertaining to the contents conveyed by the structures if used to transport liquids, semi-solids, or gases, and (3) an explanation of whether or not the structures will be removed, and if not, research that shows the cost of removal far exceeds the public benefit.

Requires ODOT to investigate and determine the proper course of action regarding the structures included in the notification of proposed abandonment within 90 days after receiving the notification. Requires the entity that submitted the notification to perform the proper course of action determined by ODOT within one year and at the sole cost of the entity.

Requires ODOT to make reasonable attempts to identify the owner of an abandoned telecommunication or utility structure that occupies a road, state highway, or right-of-way. Requires ODOT to remove the structure if reasonable attempts to notify the owner fail.

R.C. 5515.10, 5515.01, 5515.99

No provision.

No provision.

No provision.

Same as the Executive, but allows, rather than requires ODOT to remove the structure and requires that ODOT hire a third party for the removal.

Executive

As Passed By House

Exempts ODOT from damages based on the removal.

No provision.

Prohibits a telecommunications carrier or utility provider from knowingly failing to comply with the abandonment provisions above or any ODOT rules implementing the abandonment provisions, and imposes a fine of up to \$100 per day of non-compliance.

No provision.

**Fiscal effect: Potential fine revenue gains from violations under this section. ODOT has estimated that the agency has needed to make roughly \$50.0 million in change order contracts over the past 10 years as a result of delays related to these structures.**

**Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive, except precludes collection of fine revenue.**

**DOTCD39 Increased fines for prohibited use of rest areas**

R.C. 5515.99

Increases the existing fine for violating the law and rules governing the use and control of highway rest areas from \$100 to \$500 for the first offense and from \$500 to \$2,500 for each subsequent offense.

No provision.

**Fiscal effect: Potential gain in fine revenue from violations under this section.**

**DOTCD28 Chip and fog seal projects**

R.C. 5517.021

Authorizes ODOT to chip seal or fog seal an asphalt surface without using competitive bidding for the project if (1) the operation is 28 feet in width or less, excluding turn lanes; and (2) overall operations statewide do not exceed 200 cumulative centerline miles annually.

R.C. 5517.021, 5517.08

Same as the Executive.

No provision.

Requires the ODOT Director to notify the applicable board of county commissioners or board of township trustees of a chip seal or fog seal project at least 30 days in advance of it being competitively bid or ODOT starting the project by force account.

**Fiscal effect: May reduce the costs associated with the competitive bidding process for such contracts.**

**Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.**

Executive

As Passed By House

**DOTCD37 Delay costs and expenses**

**R.C. 5515.02, 5517.06, 5515.99**

Allows the ODOT Director to require commitments and deadlines from persons, firms, and corporations in conjunction with any work deemed necessary to carry out various duties of the Director.

Requires any delay costs and expenses incurred by ODOT, any agent of ODOT, or consultant of ODOT to be borne by the entity responsible for the delay.

Requires that any delay costs and expenses amount incurred by ODOT due to the following be certified to the Attorney General (AGO) for collection by civil action: (1) an owner's failure to timely remove or relocate an object or structure that the ODOT Director has found to obstruct or interfere with a road or highway; or (2) an owner's failure to follow commitments and deadlines set by the Director in conjunction with work deemed necessary to carry out the various duties of ODOT. Requires AGO to bring a civil action to collect the certified amounts.

Exempts the ODOT Director or any agent of ODOT from liability for damages caused when ODOT removes or relocates obstructions from roads or state highways.

Prohibits any person from knowingly failing to remove or relocate any object or structure from a road or state highway that the ODOT Director has determined to obstruct or interfere with a road or highway, and imposes a fine of not more than \$100 per day.

**Fiscal effect: Potential offsetting revenue gains for ODOT from collecting the certified costs related to delays, offsetting the additional costs resulting from those delays. Potential gain in fine revenue. AGO will see an increase in enforcement costs associated with collection by civil action.**

**R.C. 5517.06**

Same as the Executive.

Same as the Executive.

Same as the Executive.

No provision.

No provision.

**Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.**



Executive

As Passed By House

**DOTCD31 Bidder qualifications**

**R.C. 5525.04, 5525.03, 5525.08**

Increases the threshold for obtaining a certificate of qualification of bidding capacity from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000 for determining whether a contractor must submit either (1) a financial review (for less than the threshold), or (2) a financial audit from an independent certified public accountant (for more than the threshold).

Requires the contractor to meet the appropriate bidding capacity at the time the contract is awarded rather than at the time the bid is submitted for consideration.

Requires a bidder to be qualified for the bid at the time the contract is awarded, rather than at the time the bid is submitted for consideration by ODOT.

Requires a prospective bidder for an ODOT contract to have an affirmative action compliance certificate dated no earlier than 180 days before a project contract is awarded rather than 180 days before the date fixed for the opening of bids.

**Fiscal effect: May potentially result in some additional eligible bidders for projects.**

**R.C. 5525.04, 5525.03, 5525.08**

Same as the Executive.

Same as the Executive.

Same as the Executive.

Same as the Executive.

**Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.**

**DOTCD29 Change order contracts**

**R.C. 5525.14, 5525.141**

Raises the monetary threshold below which the ODOT Director may increase the quantities of any item in a competitively bid construction contract from the lesser of \$100,000 or 5% to \$200,000 or 10% of the total contract price.

Increases the amount below which a change order is not subject to the monetary thresholds from \$25,000 under current law to \$50,000.

**R.C. 5525.14**

Same as the Executive.

Same as the Executive.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

Requires that beginning September 11, 2029, and every five years thereafter, the ODOT Director evaluate these monetary thresholds and adopt rules adjusting those amounts based on the average rate of inflation during each of the previous five years preceding the adjustment.

No provision.

**DOTCD47 Interchange construction replaced with traffic study**

No provision.

**Section: 105.01, 755.10**

Repeals a provision of law enacted in the previous Transportation Budget (H.B. 23 of 135th General Assembly) that requires ODOT to ensure that limited access exit and entrance ramps to interstate highways exist at least every 4.5 miles in adjacent municipal corporations under certain conditions.

No provision.

Requires the ODOT Director, in consultation with the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), to conduct a study to develop a traffic congestion management strategic plan for the area along I-71 within specified boundaries.

No provision.

Requires the ODOT Director to complete the study and submit a report to the Governor, specified members of the General Assembly, and the affected cities by December 31, 2026.

**Fiscal effect: Likely decrease in construction costs. ODOT and NOACA, however, will incur costs to conduct the study.**

**DOTCD1 Transportation Lease Rental Bond Payments****Section: 203.20**

Requires Fund 7002 ALI 770003, Transportation Facilities Lease Rental Bond Payments, to be used to meet all payments under leases and agreements for facilities during the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium.

**Section: 203.20**

Same as the Executive.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

Authorizes an amount equal to the balance of the appropriation remaining after the debt service has been paid in either fiscal year to be transferred to Fund 7002 ALIs 772421, Highway Construction – State, 773431, Highway Maintenance – State, or 779491, Administration – State, upon written request of the ODOT Director and the OBM Director's approval. Requires the transferred appropriations to be reported to the Controlling Board.

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD2 Public access roads for DNR, parks, Exposition Commission and Ohio History Connection****Section: 203.30**

Requires the ODOT Director to determine portions of funding in each fiscal year from Fund 7002 ALI 772421, Highway Construction - State, to be used to construct, reconstruct, or maintain public access roads and support features to and within facilities owned or operated by ODNR and earmarks the following in each fiscal year: (1) \$2,562,000 for drives or roads within the boundaries of metropolitan parks; (2) \$500,000 for drives and roads within state parks and wildlife areas greater than 10,000 contiguous acres that were purchased in a single or series of transactions; and (3) \$500,000 for roads leading to such state parks and wildlife areas.

**Section: 203.30**

Same as the Executive.

Allows ALI 772421 to be used for road work at the state fairgrounds on behalf of the Ohio Expositions Commission and at the Ohio History Connection at the request of each entity and approval by the ODOT Director.

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD3 Transportation Improvement Districts****Section: 203.40**

Earmarks \$4,500,000 in each fiscal year from Fund 7002 ALI 772421 for Transportation Improvement Districts (TIDs) that have facilitated funding for the cost of a project or projects in conjunction with and through other governmental agencies.

**Section: 203.40**

Same as the Executive, but increases the earmark to \$9,000,000 in each fiscal year.

Requires a TID to submit requests for project funding to ODOT within a timeline determined by the ODOT Director and requires ODOT to notify the TID of its decision on the request within 90 days.

Same as the Executive.

Executive

As Passed By House

Prohibits a TID from using any ODOT funding to cover administrative or staffing costs and requires the funding to be used for specific projects within the TID. Prohibits the total amount of a project's cost from being fully funded by the amount provided by ODOT funds. Limits the total amount provided by ODOT for each project to \$500,000 per fiscal year. Allows TIDs co-sponsoring a specific project to apply individually for up to \$500,000 for that project per fiscal year.

Same as the Executive.

Allows ODOT funding to be used for preliminary engineering, detailed design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of a specific project and other certain project costs. Requires the ODOT Director to reimburse a TID for approved expenses upon receipt of an invoice.

Same as the Executive.

Requires that TIDs be registered with ODOT in order to receive funding and authorizes ODOT to register a TID only if the TID has a specific eligible project. Prohibits ODOT funds from going to TIDs that are not registered.

Same as the Executive.

Authorizes the ODOT Director to cancel a TID registration unless at least one of the following applies: (1) the TID oversees a project or program of projects of \$15,000,000 or more, and (2) the TID oversees and is facilitating funding for a project or program of projects estimated to exceed \$10,000,000 as attested by the County Engineer where the TID is located.

No provision.

**DOTCD4 Highway Construction - Federal**

**Section: 203.43**

Earmarks \$33,000,000 in each fiscal year from Fund 7002 ALI 772422, Highway Construction - Federal, to support public transportation statewide through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) flexible funding program.

**Section: 203.43**

Same as the Executive.

No provision.

Earmarks \$15,000,000 in each fiscal year from Fund 7002 ALI 772422, Highway Construction - Federal, to administer the Workforce Mobility Partnership Program.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

No provision.

Earmarks \$1,000,000 in FY 2026 from Fund 7002 ALI 772422, Highway Construction - Federal, to administer the Private Transit Voucher Pilot Program.

**DOTCD5 Regional Transportation Planning Organizations****Section: 203.45**

Earmarks \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year from Fund 7002 ALI 772422, Highway Construction - Federal, to be used by the six Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) in the state to oversee rural transportation planning grant programs.

No provision.

**DOTCD6 Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project****Section: 203.47**

Requires that all spending related to the Brent Spence Corridor Project be documented in the state's accounting system (OAKS) and made visible in the Ohio State and Local Government Expenditure Database (the Ohio Checkbook website).

**Section: 203.47**

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD7 Rail Safety Crossing Match****Section: 203.49**

Reappropriates the available balance of Fund 5ZP0 ALI 776505, Rail Safety Crossing Match, at the end of FY 2025 for the same purpose in FY 2026, and at the end of FY 2026 for the same purpose in FY 2027.

**Section: 203.49**

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD8 Authorization for the issuance of state highway bonds****Section: 203.50**

Authorizes the issuance of an additional \$238,500,000 in bonds for highway purposes to be credited to the Highway Capital Improvement Fund (Fund 7042).

**Section: 203.50**

Same as the Executive.

Specifies that not more than \$220,000,000 in principal obligations may be used in any fiscal year, and not more than \$1,200,000,000 may be outstanding at any one time.

Same as the Executive.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

**DOTCD9 Transfers of appropriation within the Highway Operating Fund****Section: 203.60**

Allows the ODOT Director to request Controlling Board approval to transfer specified Highway Operating Fund (Fund 7002) appropriations for highway planning and research, highway construction, debt service, highway maintenance, federal public transit programs, rail grade crossings, aviation, and administration. Allows the ODOT Director to request appropriation transfers out of debt service appropriation items, but only when it is determined that the appropriated amounts exceed actual and projected debt service requirements.

Limits the transfer request authorization to (1) covering emergency situations or for purchasing goods and services relating to dangerous inclement weather, and (2) adjusting to circumstances affecting the obligation and expenditure of federal funds.

**Section: 203.60**

Same as the Executive.

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD10 Transfers of federal and local funded appropriations for highways, planning, transit, rail, and aviation****Section: 203.60**

Allows the ODOT Director to request Controlling Board approval for appropriation transfers between ALLs 772422, Highway Construction - Federal, 771412, Planning and Research - Federal, 775452, Public Transportation - Federal, 775454, Public Transportation - Other, 776475, Federal Rail Administration, 776462, Grade Crossing - Federal, and 777472, Airport Improvements - Federal.

**Section: 203.60**

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD11 Transfers of appropriations and cash - State Infrastructure Bank****Section: 203.60**

Allows the ODOT Director to request Controlling Board approval for the transfer of appropriations and cash of the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) funds, including transfers between FY 2026 and FY 2027.

**Section: 203.60**

Same as the Executive.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

Allows the ODOT Director to request Controlling Board approval for the transfer of appropriations and cash from Fund 7002 to SIB funds and limits transfers from SIB funds to Fund 7002 up to the amounts originally transferred to the SIB funds. Prohibits transfers between transportation modes and different funding sources.

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD12 Transfers of appropriations and cash from tolling funds**

**Section: 203.60**

Allows the ODOT Director to request Controlling Board approval for the transfer of appropriations and cash of the Ohio Toll Fund and any subaccounts, including transfers between FY 2026 and FY 2027.

**Section: 203.60**

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD13 Increasing appropriations - State funds**

**Section: 203.60**

Allows the ODOT Director, if receipts or unexpended balances in Fund 7002 exceed the estimates upon which the appropriations were made, to request Controlling Board to authorize expenditures in excess of appropriations. Appropriates the additional amounts authorized by the Controlling Board.

**Section: 203.60**

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD14 Increasing appropriations - Federal and local funds**

**Section: 203.60**

Allows the ODOT Director to seek Controlling Board approval to increase spending of federal or local moneys credited to Fund 7002 if receipts or unexpected balances credited to Fund 7002 exceed estimates. Appropriates the additional amounts authorized by Controlling Board.

**Section: 203.60**

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD15 Transfers between the Highway Operating Fund and Highway Capital Improvement Fund**

**Section: 203.60**

Allows the OBM Director, upon request of the ODOT Director, to transfer cash from Fund 7002 to Fund 7042, and from Fund 7042 up to the amount previously transferred back to Fund 7002.

**Section: 203.60**

Same as the Executive, but requires these transfers to be subject to Controlling Board approval.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

**DOTCD16 Deputy Inspector General for ODOT funding****Section: 203.60**

Requires the OBM Director to make semiannual cash transfers of \$200,000 each fiscal year from Fund 7002 to the Deputy Inspector General for ODOT Fund (Fund 5FA0).

Permits the Inspector General, with the consent of the OBM Director, to seek Controlling Board approval for additional transfers of cash and for expenditures in excess of appropriations in Fund 5FA0 ALI 965603, Deputy Inspector for ODOT, if additional amounts are needed. Appropriates the amounts approved by the Controlling Board.

**Section: 203.60**

Same as the Executive.

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD17 Liquidation of unforeseen liabilities****Section: 203.60**

Allows for any appropriation made from Fund 7002 not otherwise restricted by law to be used to liquidate unforeseen liabilities arising from contractual agreements of prior years when the prior year encumbrance is insufficient.

**Section: 203.60**

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD18 Electric vehicle expenditures****Section: 203.60**

Requires the ODOT Director to request Controlling Board approval for any expenditure of funds received under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for constructing or maintaining electric vehicle charging stations. Appropriates the amounts approved by the Controlling Board.

**Section: 203.60**

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD19 Reappropriations****Section: 203.65**

Allows the OBM Director to request Controlling Board approval to transfer any remaining unencumbered appropriations in Funds 5X10, 7002, and 7042, and the SIB funds for the same purposes in the following fiscal year. Reappropriates the amounts authorized by the Controlling Board.

**Section: 203.65**

Same as the Executive.



## Executive

## As Passed By House

Requires the ODOT Director to develop and submit a reappropriation request plan to the OBM Director detailing the amounts to be reappropriated by fund and appropriation item. Allows the OBM Director to ask the ODOT Director for more information if needed to evaluate the plan. Specifies that any approved reappropriations are subject to the availability of revenue in funds 5X10, 7002, 7042, and the SIB funds.

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD20 Maintenance of interstate highways**

**Section: 203.70**

Authorizes ODOT to enter into agreements with political subdivisions for them to provide for snow and ice removal, maintenance and repair, and lighting on interstate highways located within their boundaries, as long as the services provided meet federal requirements. Authorizes ODOT to reimburse political subdivisions for all or any part of the costs incurred for these services.

**Section: 203.70**

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD21 Public transportation highway purpose grants**

**Section: 203.80**

Allows the ODOT Director to use state motor fuel tax (MFT) revenue to match approved federal grants awarded to ODOT, regional transit authorities, or eligible public transportation systems, for public transportation highway purposes, or to support local or state-funded projects for public transportation highway purposes.

**Section: 203.80**

Same as the Executive.

Defines public transportation projects highway purposes as the: (1) construction or repair of high-occupancy vehicle traffic lanes; (2) acquisition or construction of park and ride facilities; (3) acquisition or construction of public transportation vehicle loops; (4) construction or repair of bridges used by public transportation vehicles or that are the responsibility of a regional transit authority or other public transit system; and (5) other similar construction that is designated as an eligible public transportation highway purpose. Prohibits motor fuel tax revenue from being used for operational expenses, or for buying vehicles, equipment, or maintenance facilities.

Same as the Executive.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

**DOTCD22 Agreements with federal agencies for environmental review****Section: 203.90**

Authorizes the ODOT Director to enter into agreements with federal agencies to review federal environmental permit documents. Requires the agreements to be solely for the purpose of dedicating staff to review materials submitted by ODOT that are needed to obtain federal environmental permits. Allows for the agreements to provide for ODOT to make advance payments for staff and all other identifiable costs federal agencies incur for providing these services to ODOT.

Requires the ODOT Director to submit a request to the Controlling Board relating to its agreement with any federal agency providing staff working to approve federal permits.

**Fiscal effect: Normally, 80% of administrative costs incurred up front are reimbursed to ODOT by federal agencies under these agreements.**

**Section: 203.90**

Same as the Executive.

Same as the Executive.

**DOTCD30 Indefinite delivery indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts****R.C. 5517.012**

Permanently authorizes the ODOT Director to enter into IDIQ contracts, which are for an unspecified quantity, within stated limits, of supplies or services that will be delivered by the awarded bidder over a defined period.

Requires the ODOT Director to determine contract terms and conditions, including: (1) the maximum contract value, which may include an increase of \$100,000 or 5% of the advertised contract value, whichever is less; (2) the contract duration, which may include an extension of one year; and (3) the defined geographical area to which the contract applies, so long as it is no greater than the size of one ODOT district, unless otherwise approved by the Director. Requires the Director to develop and implement a work order process and take any other action necessary to fulfill the Director's duties related to IDIQ contracts.

**Section: 203.100**

Replaces the Executive provision with one authorizing the ODOT Director, in uncodified law, to enter into two IDIQ contracts in FY 2026 and in FY 2027 only.

Same as the Executive, but does not permit the ODOT Director to approve deviations from the geographic limitation.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

Limits the total value of an IDIQ contract to \$2,000,000 per project and the total value of awarded IDIQ contracts to \$100,000,000 per fiscal year.  
Limits the duration of IDIQ contracts to a maximum of two years.

**Fiscal effect: ODOT has entered into 14 IDIQ contracts since FY 2016, typically between two and four contracts per biennium, ranging between \$2.0 million and \$3.4 million in total value.**

No provision.

**Fiscal effect: Instead of giving the ODOT permanent statutory authority to use IDIQ contracts as under the Executive, limits the use of IDIQ contracts to FY 2026 and FY 2027. Recent transportation budgets have authorized the use of this limited authority in prior biennia.**

## DOTCD41 Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program

No provision.

**Section: 610.10, 610.11**

Continues the Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program established in H.B. 23 of the 135th G.A., which is run by ODOT and provides grants to RTAs for workforce mobility initiatives.

**Fiscal effect: The bill earmarks \$15.0 million in each fiscal year to run the program under Fund 7002 ALI 772422, Highway Construction - Federal (See DOTCD4).**

## DOTCD43 Pavement selection process analysis

No provision.

**Section: 755.20**

Requires ODOT to contract with a neutral third-party entity and, subject to Controlling Board approval, conduct a study of ODOT's pavement selection process.

No provision.

Requires the ODOT Director to appoint an advisory council of seven members to recommend the neutral third-party entity, oversee the study, and make final recommendations based on the study.

No provision.

Requires ODOT to make changes to its pavement selection process based on the study and recommendations included in the advisory council's final report.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

**Fiscal effect: Increase in costs to conduct the study, paid from Fund 7002 ALI 771411, Planning and Research - State. The effect of any changes in ODOT's pavement selection process will depend on the study results.**

## DOTCD45 Private Transit Voucher Pilot Program

## Section: 755.30

No provision.

Requires ODOT to conduct a pilot program to distribute private transit vouchers to low-income individuals to see if it is a cost-effective option for eliminating public transit routes with low ridership.

No provision.

Requires ODOT to submit a report to the General Assembly regarding the effectiveness of the program by January 1, 2027, and terminates the program after the submission of the report.

**Fiscal effect: The bill earmarks \$1.0 million in FY 2026 to run the pilot program under Fund 7002 ALI 772422, Highway Construction - Federal (See DOTCD4).**

## DOTCD48 Road Safety Pilot Program

## Section: 755.40

No provision.

Requires the ODOT Director to establish a Road Safety Pilot Program not later than October 1, 2025, to assess speed compliance in construction zones.

No provision.

Requires the program to contain both of the following in one or more construction zones: (1) speed monitoring devices with flashing lights that display speed; and (2) any other methods determined by ODOT that have the effect of reducing speed.

No provision.

Prohibits the use of traffic law photo monitoring devices for any purpose in a construction zone for purposes of the study.

No provision.

Requires the program to operate for one year, after which the ODOT Director has three months to issue a report of the results of the program to the Senate President, House Speaker, and Governor.

**Fiscal effect: ODOT could incur some administrative costs to undertake this project.**

Executive

As Passed By House

**DOTCD56 Interstate Route 73 feasibility study**

No provision.

**Section: 755.50, 203.25**

Requires the ODOT Director to conduct a feasibility study of an Interstate 73 corridor, primarily along current U.S. Route 23, extending from Toledo to Chesapeake Ohio, and specifies the study must be completed by December 31, 2026.

No provision.

Earmarks \$2,000,000 in FY 2026 from Fund 7002 ALI 771411, Planning and Research - State, to fund the study.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

**OBMCD1 Limitations on use of capital appropriations****Section: 501.10**

Limits the use of capital appropriations for building and structures in the bill to: (1) real property; (2) buildings and structures; (3) architectural, engineering, and professional services; (4) machinery; (5) new computer systems; and (6) furniture, fixtures, or equipment according to certain criteria.

**Section: 501.10**

Same as the Executive.

**OBMCD2 State arbitrage rebate authorization****Section: 503.10**

Appropriates an amount necessary to make payments to the federal government of investment income rebates to maintain the federal income tax exemption of interest on bonds issued by the state, and requires OBM approve and voucher payments for this purpose.

**Section: 503.10**

Same as the Executive.

**Fiscal effect: Federal law prohibits tax-exempt bond issuers, such as the state of Ohio, from earning a higher rate of interest from investment of bond proceeds than the interest paid on bonds. Any payments that may be required under this section will be paid out of the bond fund in which excess earnings were realized.**

**Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.**

**OBMCD3 Authorization for Treasurer of State and OBM to effectuate lease rental payments****Section: 509.10**

Requires OBM to make payments from lease rental payment appropriation items during the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium to meet lease agreements for capital improvement bonds.

**Section: 509.10**

Same as the Executive.

**OBMCD4 Lease and debt service payments****Section: 509.20**

Authorizes additional appropriations to cover debt service and bond financing costs if needed to cover those payments.

**Section: 509.20**

Same as the Executive.

Executive

As Passed By House

**DEVCD1 Roadwork Development**

**Section: 207.20**

Requires Fund 4W00 ALI 195629, Roadwork Development, to be used for road improvements associated with economic development opportunities, including public roads leading to or within public airports. Requires the grants to be distributed following guidelines and requirements of other DEV programs including Controlling Board review and approval, and in compliance with constitutional requirements for the use of MFT revenues. Permits the ALI to be used in conjunction with any other state funds appropriated for infrastructure improvements.

Requires the OBM Director to transfer cash from the Highway Operating Fund (Fund 7002) to Fund 4W00 according to a schedule set by OBM in conjunction with the DEV Director.

Requires the ODOT Director to assist, upon request of the DEV Director, with project completion and to enter into contracts on behalf of DEV.

**Section: 207.20**

Same as the Executive.

Same as the Executive.

Same as the Executive.

Executive

As Passed By House

DNRCD21 Watercraft or outboard motor notary requirements

No provision.

R.C. 1548.061, 1548.062

Removes the requirements that a power of attorney be notarized when a person grants a registered watercraft dealer, or the dealer's agent, a power of attorney related to the transfer of a watercraft or outboard motor title.

No provision.

Removes notary requirements when a registered watercraft dealer is a party to the transfer of a watercraft or outboard motor for all of the following documents: (1) the watercraft or outboard motor certificate of title, (2) an application for a watercraft or outboard motor certificate of title, (3) assignment of ownership for a watercraft or outboard motor, (4) power of attorney to title a watercraft or outboard motor, and (5) any other document required by the clerk of courts for the titling of a watercraft or outboard motor.

**Fiscal effect: None.**



Executive

As Passed By House

**PWCCD1 Reappropriations**

**Section: 209.20**

Reappropriates unencumbered capital appropriations under H.B. 23 of the 135th G.A. from the Local Transportation Improvement Program Fund (Fund 7052) at the end of FY 2025 for the same purposes in FY 2026. Reappropriates unencumbered capital appropriations and reappropriations from the Local Transportation Improvement Program Fund (Fund 7052) at the end of FY 2025 and FY 2026 for the same purposes in the next fiscal year.

**Section: 209.20**

Same as the Executive.

**PWCCD2 Temporary transfers**

**Section: 209.20**

Allows the OBM Director to transfer cash from the Local Transportation Improvement Fund (Fund 7052) to the State Capital Improvement Fund (Fund 7038) and the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund (Fund 7056). Permits OBM to approve temporary cash transfers if they are needed for capital outlays for which notes or bonds will be issued. Requires OBM to make cash transfers to repay Fund 7052 for the amounts originally transferred when cash balances are sufficient to do so. Requires all such cash transfers to be reported to the Controlling Board by June 30 of the fiscal year in which they occurred.

**Section: 209.20**

Same as the Executive.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

## DPSCD47 Voter registration with BMV transaction

No provision.

**R.C. 3503.11**

Prohibits the Registrar of Motor vehicles or deputy registrar from offering voter registration to a person who, according to BMV records, is ineligible to register to vote.

**Fiscal effect: Minimal.**

## DPSCD50 E-Check alternative certification program

No provision.

**R.C. 3704.14, 4503.10, 4503.102, 4503.103**

Creates an alternative, parallel system by which an owner of a motor vehicle may comply with the E-Check program without submitting to an E-Check emissions test by obtaining an alternative emissions certificate (AEC) and names it the "E-Check Ease Act."

No provision.

Requires the Ohio EPA Director to: (1) issue an AEC when the owner of a motor vehicle subject to the E-Check program submits an attestation form to the Director that affirms that the motor vehicle complies with all Ohio and U.S. laws governing motor vehicle emissions; (2) deliver an AEC within 30 business days after receipt of the attestation form by mail and within five business days after electronic receipt; (3) reject an attestation form for various reasons, including that an attestation form contains false information; and (4) send a notice letter to an owner who submits an attestation form containing false information and allows the owner to correct the form.

No provision.

Requires a motor vehicle owner to have an emissions test performed on the vehicle and obtain an inspection certificate, instead of an AEC, if an attestation form is rejected and not corrected.

No provision.

Requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to accept an AEC in lieu of an inspection certificate for the purpose of registering a motor vehicle in an E-Check county and to ensure that owners registering motor vehicles in E-Check counties receive information about the AEC process.

Executive

As Passed By House

No provision.

Expands the new motor vehicle exemption under the E-Check program so that it applies to motor vehicles six years old or newer (rather than four years old or newer as in current law) and creates a new E-Check exemption for hybrid motor vehicles that are seven years old or newer.

**Fiscal effect: Potential increase in administrative costs for Ohio EPA to implement an alternative program to meet E-Check standards, which will be offset to some degree by a decrease in state costs to pay for emissions testing under E-Check; potential increase in costs for the BMV to make necessary programming changes to implement AEC requirements and to account for the additional E-Check Program exemptions.**

DPSCD44 Replica motor vehicles

R.C. 4501.01, 4503.183, 4505.072, 4505.08, 4513.071, 4513.38, 4513.41; Section 820.40

No provision.

Authorizes a person to register a replica motor vehicle (intended to replicate another motor vehicle that is at least 25 years old), for limited operation on public roads and highways.

No provision.

Authorizes the owner of such vehicle to request that the certificate of title indicate that it is a replica vehicle and establishes procedures for issuance of the certificate of title.

No provision.

Exempts replica motor vehicles from certain requirements (e.g., emissions, noise control, and fuel usage) that were not in effect in the year of manufacture that the vehicle replicates.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

No provision.

Establishes a 180 day effective date for the replica motor vehicle provisions.

**Fiscal effect: Potential minimal increase in costs for the BMV to produce “Replica Vehicle – Ohio” license plates, which will be offset by the collection of a \$10 license fee from the requesting vehicle’s owner in lieu of paying annual passenger registration taxes and fees. Potential minimal annual loss in the amount of vehicle registration taxes and fees collected annually by ODPS and certain local governments.**

DPSCD48 Adaptive mobility vehicle sales

No provision.

R.C. 4501.01, 4517.02

Expands who may sell a used adaptive mobility vehicle to also include used and leasing motor vehicle dealers (from only an adaptive mobility dealer or a new motor vehicle dealer).

**Fiscal effect: Potential increase in administrative costs for the BMV to license and regulate adaptive mobility dealers if used and leasing motor vehicle dealers apply for a license; costs at least partially offset by the \$50 initial and biennial renewal fee required to obtain or maintain a license.**

DPSCD43 Specialty license plate program

No provision.

R.C. 4503.038, 4503.19, 4503.261, 4503.262, 5502.68

Requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to use a competitive selection process to select a vendor for a contract to operate a specialty license plate program.

## Executive

## As Passed By House

No provision.

Requires the Registrar to collect the following fees and contribution in addition to any applicable motor vehicle registration taxes and fees: (1) a fee to compensate the Registrar for costs associated with program administration and license plate production and design; (2) a fee to compensate the vendor for contract performance; and (3) a contribution for deposit in the Drug Law Enforcement Fund (Fund 5ET0).

No provision.

Requires the Registrar to submit each specialty license plate proposed under the program to the CEB for approval or disapproval.

**Fiscal effect: Potential increase in costs for the BMV to contract with a private vendor for the operation of a specialty license plate program; costs will be at least partially offset by the collection of additional fees that apply to obtaining a specialty license plate. Impact on the CEB to approve or disapprove specialty license plates is expected to be minimal and absorbed utilizing existing staff and resources.**

DPSCD49 Repeal of enhanced driver's licenses and ID card

No provision.

R.C. 4506.01, 4506.11, 4507.01, 4507.061, 4507.13, 4507.52; Repealed: R.C. 4506.072, 4507.021, 4507.063, 4507.511

Repeals all provisions of law related to an enhanced CDL, enhanced driver's license, and enhanced state ID card, including: (1) a requirement that the ODPS Director enter into a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for approval to issue the enhanced licenses and cards; (2) a requirement that the Registrar adopt rules on the issuance of the enhanced licenses and cards to facilitate land and sea border crossings between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean; and (3) application requirements for persons interested in obtaining the enhanced licenses and cards.

**Fiscal effect: None; ODPS has not received approval from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to begin issuing enhanced driver's licenses or state ID cards, thus preventing the program from being implemented.**

## Executive

## As Passed By House

## DPSCD52 Limited term license applicants

No provision.

**R.C. 4507.21, 4508.02**

Requires a limited term license applicant to successfully complete a driver training course and 50 hours of practice driving accompanied by a licensed adult prior to first issuance of the license.

**Fiscal effect: Potential minimal increase in administrative work for the BMV to issue limited term licenses.**

## DPSCD51 Portable signal preemption

No provision.

**R.C. 4511.031**

Authorizes the operator of a highway maintenance vehicle (when used for snow removal and owned/operated by or on behalf of a political subdivision) to possess a portable signal preemption device (i.e., a device that can change a traffic light from red to green out of sequence).

No provision.

Authorizes that operator to use the portable signal preemption device when responding to an emergency weather event.

**Fiscal effect: None.**

## DPSCD45 Daily pre-trip school bus inspections

No provision.

**R.C. 4511.765**

Eliminates and precludes specified equipment checks that are currently required by rule for daily pre-trip inspections of school buses.

No provision.

Requires the State Highway Patrol to still check that equipment in their annual school bus inspections.

**Fiscal effect: None.**

Executive

As Passed By House

DPSCD46 Toll agreements by the Director of Public Safety

No provision.

R.C. 5501.441

Allows the ODPS Director to enter into an agreement with any private toll transportation facility (PTTF) located in another state that governs the collection and enforcement of tolls for a highway, bridge, or tunnel operated by the PTTF.

**Fiscal effect: None.**

## Executive

## As Passed By House

## PUCCD1 Wayside detector systems

No provision.

**R.C. 4955.50, 4955.51-4955.57, Section 749.10**

Creates separate requirements for wayside detector system (WDS) placement based on the federal classification of a railroad company as follows: (1) For Class I carriers, not more than 10 miles from the adjacent WDS location; (2) For Class II carriers, not more than 25 miles; (3) For Class III carriers, not more than 35 miles.

No provision.

Grants each class an additional five mile allowance should natural terrain or any other reason make that spacing impossible and requires Class II and Class III carriers to submit a written explanation for the use of the five mile allowance to PUCO.

No provision.

Exempts any railroad track owned or leased by a Class II or Class III carrier that has a speed limit of 10 miles per hour or less from WDS requirements.

No provision.

Requires PUCO, not later than December 31, 2028, to complete a review of train derailments in Ohio using statistics from the Federal Railroad Administration over the course of three years after the bill's effective date. Requires copies of the report to be sent to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and the minority leaders of both chambers.

**Fiscal effect: Minimal increase in costs for PUCO to conduct the review.**



Executive

As Passed By House

RDFCD9 Gasoline Excise Tax

No provision.

Section: 221.10

Requires Fund 7060 ALLs 110652, Gasoline Excise Tax Fund - Municipal, 110653, Gasoline Excise Tax Fund - Township, and 110654, Gasoline Excise Tax Fund - County, be used to make payments of the gasoline excise tax to municipalities, townships, and counties, respectively.

No provision.

Requires ALI 110654 to also be used to make payments to the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission.

No provision.

Appropriates additional amounts as necessary.

Executive

As Passed By House

**TAXCD1 Motor fuel tax distributions to Highway Operating Fund**

**Section: 757.10**

Requires the Treasurer of State, on the last day of each month of the biennium, to deposit the first 2% of the amount of motor fuel tax (MFT) received for the preceding calendar month to the credit of the Highway Operating Fund (Fund 7002) after transfers to the Tax Refund Fund, but before other distributions required in continuing law.

**Fiscal effect: This provision will result in about \$24 million per fiscal year in net revenue gain to Fund 7002 and offsetting revenue loss, by the same amount, primarily to local governments but also to other state funds.**

**Section: 757.10**

Same as the Executive.

**Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.**

**TAXCD2 Motor fuel evaporation tax credit**

**Section: 757.20**

Continues, for the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium, a temporary reduction in MFT credits, in which a temporary motor fuel tax evaporation allowance is set for motor fuel distributors to 1% (less 0.5% of the gallonage sold to retailers), and at 0.5% for retail dealers.

**Fiscal effect: Increases the amount of MFT revenue that will be retained by the state and subsequently distributed to local governments and applicable state agencies, compared to codified law. Under codified law, the percentage of allowance for motor fuel dealers is 3% (less 1% of the gallonage sold to retailers), and for retail dealers the percentage of shrinkage refund is 1% of total MFT paid on fuel purchased during each of the semiannual filing periods. Based on FY 2024 experience, this provision would decrease the shrinkage allowance by roughly \$51 million in each year of the biennium and increase funding available for the Highway Operating Fund, other state funds, municipalities, counties, and townships in total by about that amount.**

**Section: 757.20**

Same as the Executive.

**Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.**

Executive

As Passed By House

**TAXCD3 Monthly transfers to Gasoline Excise Tax Fund**

**Section: 757.30**

Requires the OBM Director to transfer cash, in equal monthly increments totaling \$179,054,124 in FY 2026 and \$187,584,952 in FY 2027, from the Highway Operating Fund (Fund 7002) to the Gasoline Excise Tax Fund (Fund 7060) and requires the transferred amounts be distributed to municipal corporations (42.86%), counties (37.14%), and townships (20.0%).

**Fiscal effect: Increases funding to municipalities statewide by \$76.7 million in FY 2026 and \$80.4 million in FY 2027; increases funding to counties by \$66.5 million in FY 2026 and \$69.7 million in FY 2027; increases funding to townships by \$35.8 million in FY 2026 and \$37.5 million in FY 2027. Decreases amounts available to Fund 7002 by the total transfer amounts.**

**Section: 757.30**

Same as the Executive.

**Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.**