
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Motor vehicle registration and title

Additional motor vehicle registration and renewal fees

- Beginning January 1, 2026, increases the additional annual motor vehicle registration and renewal fees from \$11 to \$21 for noncommercial vehicles and from \$30 to \$40 for nonapportioned commercial vehicles.

Disabled veterans: registration transfer fee exemption

- Exempts a disabled veteran from the \$1 transfer fee that generally applies when a person transfers a registration and license plate from one vehicle to another if the license plate is:
 - A license plate honoring military service or a military award; or
 - A disabled veteran license plate.

Certificate of title fee increase

- Beginning January 1, 2026, raises from \$15 to \$18 the general certificate of title fee required for most motor vehicles, all-purpose vehicles, and off-highway motorcycles.
- Allocates the \$3 increase to the Security, Investigations, and Policing Fund, which is used by the Ohio State Highway Patrol for certain security and investigation operations.

BMV electronic and online transactions

- Authorizes the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and a deputy registrar to accept electronically:
 - Documents that are required to accompany the services and transactions that the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) conducts electronically or online; and
 - Documents approved by the Registrar for electronic or online submission and acceptance.
- Authorizes a person to apply for an initial motor vehicle registration and a transfer of motor vehicle registration through the online system established by the Registrar, similar to registration renewals under current law.
- Requires the Registrar or deputy registrar to verify and authenticate any associated documents submitted electronically with those registrations.
- Allocates the service fee and postage costs for those online and electronic submissions.

Vehicle registration by telephone

- Eliminates the requirement that the BMV accept motor vehicle registration renewal payments via telephone.

Financial responsibility statement

- Regarding the proof of financial responsibility statement, provided at the time of motor vehicle registration, does all of the following:
 - Removes the requirement that the person registering the motor vehicle separately sign the statement;
 - Removes the requirement that the person sign a separate form listing the penalties for failure to have proof of financial responsibility; and
 - Removes the requirement that a motor vehicle dealer obtain the separate signatures and forward them to the Registrar when registering the motor vehicle on behalf of a purchaser or lessor of a motor vehicle.

Blackout license plate

- Beginning January 1, 2026, authorizes the BMV to issue “Blackout” license plates, which have a black background with white lettering.
- Specifies that Blackout license plates will not include the phrase “Birthplace of Aviation” or display county identification stickers.
- Requires payment of a \$20 Blackout license plate fee and a \$10 administrative fee for the purchasing of a Blackout license plate.

Commercial motor vehicle laws

Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse notifications

- Updates Ohio commercial motor vehicle laws to reflect federal requirements related to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (DAC) notifications to the Registrar, as follows:
 - Prohibits a commercial driver’s license temporary instruction permit (CLP) or commercial driver’s license (CDL) holder from operating a commercial motor vehicle if the holder has violated certain alcohol or controlled substances prohibitions;
 - Prohibits the Registrar from issuing, renewing, or upgrading a CLP or CDL if the Registrar receives notice from DAC of that alcohol or controlled substance violation;
 - Establishes procedures for the Registrar to downgrade or reinstate, as necessary, a CLP or CDL based on notices from DAC.

Limited term commercial driver’s license

- Modifies the law governing a CDL issued to a temporary resident to do all of the following:
 - Exclude the license as a form of photo identification for purposes of voting;
 - Make it consistent with the federal REAL ID Act and state law for the issuance of a standard limited term license;

- Clarify that the expiration date is either the expiration date of the holder's authorized stay in the U.S. or four years, whichever date is earliest, or is one year if there is no expiration date of the temporary resident's authorized stay in the U.S.;
- Authorizes the renewal of the limited term CDL within 180 days of its expiration, provided the temporary resident can verify his or her continued lawful status in the U.S.; and
- Specifies that the renewal may not take place through the BMV's online service, but must be conducted in person at a deputy registrar agency.

Driver's license and state identification card laws

Medically restricted driver's license

- Eliminates the six-month validity period for a medically restricted driver's license and instead requires the Registrar to determine the validity period.

Ohio credential reprints

- Allows a person to obtain from the BMV up to two reprints of an Ohio credential (e.g., driver's license, CDL, identification card) between initial issuance and renewal of the credential or between renewals.
- Requires payment of a \$100 administrative fee for issuance of an expedited credential, in addition to all regular fees, taxes, and mailing costs.

Expedited Ohio credential

- Beginning January 1, 2026, allows the BMV to offer an expedited process for issuing an Ohio credential.

Driver training in schools grant program

- Creates the Driver Training in Schools Grant Program in the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and authorizes the DPS Director to administer the Program and distribute grants to schools to offer driver training courses.

Ignition interlock devices

- Authorizes the Registrar to include a code on a restricted license indicating that the licensee is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a certified ignition interlock device.
- Adds two circumstances that constitute an ignition interlock device violation for purposes of extending a driver's license suspension or requiring additional continuous alcohol monitoring for an OVI offender.

Traffic laws

Distracted Driving Law – failure to control a vehicle

- Adds the offense of failure to reasonably control a motor vehicle to the Distracted Driving Law.

Seat belt and child restraint system misuse – primary offense

- Makes failure to wear a properly adjusted seat belt as either the operator or front-seat passenger of an automobile a primary offense, rather than a secondary offense as under current law.
- Makes the failure for all passengers to wear a seat belt in a motor vehicle driven by an operator who has a learner’s permit or a probationary driver’s license a primary offense, rather than a secondary offense as under current law.
- Makes failure to properly secure a child in the appropriate booster seat or seat belt, according to the child’s age, weight, height, and manufacturer’s instructions, a primary offense, rather than a secondary offense as under current law.

Objections to DPS orders

- Changes the deadline for an appeal of an order of the Registrar from within 15 days of the “date of service” of the order as in current law to within 15 days of the order’s mailing date to the party.
- Changes the deadline for any objection to a report and recommendation of a hearing examiner from within ten days of the “date of service” of the report on the objecting party as in current law to within 15 days of the report’s mailing date to the objecting party.

Request for administrative hearing

- Extends, from 10 to 15 days, the time by which a person may request an administrative hearing after a driver’s license suspension order is issued by the Registrar for failure to have proof of financial responsibility (i.e., motor vehicle insurance).

Tobacco sales and enforcement agents

- Grants authority to enforcement agents employed by DPS to enforce the law governing the unlawful distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, and alternative nicotine products on the premises of a licensed retail dealer of cigarettes or on any other premises where a violation of that law is occurring.

Emergency management assistance compact immunity

- Applies the immunity provisions related to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, which currently apply only to an employee of a political subdivision rendering aid in another state, to any person deployed to render aid in another state by an emergency management agency, including:
 - A full-time or part-time employee of a nonprofit organization; or
 - A paid or unpaid volunteer or health care worker of a for-profit or nonprofit organization.

Motor vehicle registration and title

Additional motor vehicle registration and renewal fees

(R.C. 4503.10)

The bill increases the additional annual motor vehicle registration and renewal fees beginning on January 1, 2026, as follows:

1. From \$11 to \$21 for noncommercial vehicles; and
2. From \$30 to \$40 for nonapportioned commercial vehicles, which are generally intrastate commercial motor vehicles not subject to international registration plan (IRP) requirements.

Under current law, a motor vehicle owner must pay several different fees at the time of registration. The fees listed above involve one component of the overall cost of registering a motor vehicle, and are used to defray the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) costs associated with the administration and enforcement of Ohio Motor Vehicle and Traffic Laws.

Disabled veterans: registration transfer fee exemption

(R.C. 4503.29 and 4503.41)

The bill exempts a disabled veteran from the \$1 transfer fee that generally applies when a person transfers a registration and license plate from one vehicle to another if the license plate is either a license plate honoring military service or a military award or the "Disabled Veteran" license plate.

Under current law, a disabled veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 100% by the federal Veterans' Administration may register the veteran's personal vehicle and obtain a "Disabled Veteran" license plate. Further, the disabled veteran may register their vehicle and obtain specified license plates honoring military service or military awards. In both instances, the disabled veteran is exempt from all fees associated with vehicle registration and license plates, except the transfer fee referenced above.¹⁰⁴

Certificate of title fee increase

(R.C. 4505.09 and 4519.59)

Beginning January 1, 2026, the bill raises from \$15 to \$18 the general certificate of title fee that is required to title most motor vehicles, all-purpose vehicles, and off-highway motorcycles. The additional \$3 is then allocated to the Security, Investigations, and Policing Fund. That fund is used by the Ohio State Highway Patrol to pay the costs of providing security for the Governor, other officials and dignitaries; undertaking major criminal investigations that involve state property interests; providing traffic control and security for the Ohio Expositions Commission; and performing nonhighway-related duties at the Ohio State Fair.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁴ R.C. 4503.12, not in the bill.

¹⁰⁵ R.C. 4501.11, not in the bill.

BMV electronic and online transactions

(R.C. 4501.027 and 4503.102)

Under current law, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles may conduct, or allow a deputy registrar to conduct, any service or transaction provided by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) in an electronic or an online format rather than in person. Initially, BMV's online services involved motor vehicle registration renewals. In recent years, the online services have expanded to include taking the driver's knowledge tests, updating a residential or mailing address, scheduling driving skills tests, and renewing a driver's license or identification card.

The bill further expands the BMV's options for electronic and online transactions by authorizing the Registrar and deputy registrars to accept electronically both:

- The documents that are required to accompany the services and transactions that the BMV conducts electronically or online; and
- The documents approved by the Registrar for electronic or online submission and acceptance.

The expansion allows certain services and transactions that require document authentication (e.g., initial motor vehicle registration) to be conducted online or electronically.

Online initial and transfer of motor vehicle registration

Relatedly, the bill authorizes a person to apply for an initial motor vehicle registration or a transfer of a motor vehicle registration through the BMV's online system. As stated above, a person may use the online system for motor vehicle registration renewal, but under current law, initial and transfer registrations must be conducted in person at a deputy registrar agency. The initial and transfer registrations transactions typically involve additional document verifications (e.g., checks of a certificate of title or memorandum of title) that have made it necessary for the transaction to occur in person. However, with the authorization for electronic and online submission of documents, the transactions can also occur through the BMV online system.

The bill requires the Registrar or a deputy registrar to verify and authenticate the associated documents for the initial or transfer registration that are submitted electronically. An applicant who uses the online system will still need to pay the regular costs and fees, including the service fee, postage costs, and any financial transaction device surcharges (i.e., credit card fees). Accordingly, the bill allocates the \$5 deputy registrar or BMV service fee to whoever verifies and authenticates the documents and allocates the postage costs to whoever mails the certificate of registration and any associated license plates to the applicant.

Vehicle registration by phone

(R.C. 4503.102)

The bill eliminates the requirement that the BMV accept motor vehicle registration renewal payments via telephone. The bill retains the requirement that motor vehicle registrations may be renewed by mail or electronic means.

Financial responsibility statement

(R.C. 4503.20)

Under current law, an application for motor vehicle registration must contain a statement that acknowledges Ohio’s proof of financial responsibility (e.g., auto insurance) laws. The statement must summarize those laws, explain the penalties for violating them, warn that a driver may still be involved in an accident with a person who is not properly insured, and swear that the applicant maintains (or has maintained on behalf of the applicant) proof of financial responsibility with respect to the motor vehicle being registered. Currently, an applicant must sign the financial responsibility statement, sign a separate form relating directly to the penalties for failing to have proof of financial responsibility, and sign the general application for the Registrar or a deputy registrar to accept the motor vehicle registration.

The bill removes the separate signature requirements for the financial responsibility statement and the form listing the penalties. While an applicant for registration will still need to sign the general application, that signature will serve as acknowledgement of the proof of financial responsibility requirements. Relatedly, the bill removes the requirement that a motor vehicle dealer obtain separate signatures to forward to the Registrar when registering a motor vehicle on behalf of a purchaser or lessor of that motor vehicle.

Blackout license plate

(R.C. 4503.511)

The bill creates the “Blackout” license plate, which has a black background with white lettering. The plate will not include the phrase “Birthplace of Aviation” or display county identification stickers, both of which are required for standard license plates. Beginning January 1, 2026, a Blackout license plate can be purchased for a passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar. The fee for the plate is \$20 plus an additional \$10 BMV administrative fee, both of which must be deposited into the Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund.

Commercial motor vehicle laws

Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse notifications

(R.C. 4506.01, 4506.05, 4506.07, and 4506.13)

The bill updates the Ohio Commercial Motor Vehicle Laws to reflect recent changes to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (DAC) notifications that are sent to the Registrar. Specifically, effective as of November 18, 2024, states must request information from DAC about individuals applying for, renewing, or attempting to upgrade a commercial driver’s license temporary instruction permit (CLP) or commercial driver’s license (CDL). If in response to the request, DAC notifies the Registrar that the applicant is prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle because of a violation of certain alcohol

or controlled substances prohibitions, the Registrar is prohibited from issuing, renewing, or upgrading that CLP or CDL.¹⁰⁶

Under current federal law and under the bill, a CLP or CDL holder is prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle if the holder has violated the federal alcohol or controlled substance prohibitions. The prohibitions relate to using alcohol or prohibited controlled substances before reporting for work, during work, or for a specified time after a motor vehicle accident. Work encompasses both the active driving of a commercial motor vehicle or performing safety-sensitive functions (e.g., inspecting equipment, waiting to be dispatched, loading or unloading a vehicle, or repairing a vehicle).¹⁰⁷

In addition to the active checks at issuance, renewal, and upgrade, if the Registrar receives a notification from DAC that a current CLP or CDL holder has violated the alcohol and controlled substances prohibitions, the Registrar must take steps to downgrade the holder's CLP or CDL within 60 days of the notice. The bill establishes those downgrade procedures.

Specifically, the Registrar must initiate downgrade procedures within ten calendar days after receiving the notice from DAC. The Registrar must notify the subject CLP or CDL holder that the holder's permit or license will be downgraded if that holder does not resolve the prohibition within 30 days. Resolution of the prohibition involves following federal procedures with a Substance Abuse Professional for evaluation, referral, and education/treatment.¹⁰⁸ If the holder does not resolve the prohibition, the Registrar must:

- Downgrade the CLP or CDL, meaning that while the person may operate a standard motor vehicle, the person is prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle;
- Send a second notice to the holder informing the holder of the downgrade and that the holder must take the steps necessary to reinstate the commercial driving privileges; and
- Record the downgrade on the person's Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS) driver record.

Similar to the downgrade procedures, the bill also establishes reinstatement procedures that apply when DAC informs the Registrar that a CLP or CDL holder is no longer prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle. Specifically:

- If the Registrar receives the notice before the holder's permit or license has been downgraded, the Registrar must terminate the downgrade process and notify the holder of the termination;
- If the Registrar receives the notice after the downgrade, the Registrar must reinstate the CLP or CDL, provided the person is otherwise eligible for reinstatement and commercial driving privileges;

¹⁰⁶ 49 C.F.R. 383.73

¹⁰⁷ 49 C.F.R. 382, subpart B.

¹⁰⁸ 49 C.F.R. 40, subpart O, as referenced in 49 C.F.R. 382.503.

- If the Registrar receives notice that the holder was erroneously identified by DAC, in addition to reinstating the permit or license, the Registrar must remove any record of the downgrade from the person's CDLIS driver record and motor vehicle driving record.

Limited term commercial driver's license

(R.C. 3501.01, 4506.14, 4507.061, and 4507.09)

The bill modifies the law governing a CDL issued to a temporary resident to make it consistent with current law governing the standard limited term license and limited term identification card issued to temporary residents. Temporary residents generally are persons who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents but *have legal presence* to reside in the U.S. under federal immigration laws. The changes ensure that these CDLs conform to the federal REAL ID Act.¹⁰⁹ Consistent with that Act and current state law for the limited term license, the bill does the following:

1. Renames the "nonrenewable commercial driver's license" to a "limited term commercial driver's license";
2. Excludes the limited term CDL as a form of photo identification for purposes of voting;
3. Clarifies that the expiration date is either the expiration date of the holder's authorized stay in the U.S. or four years, whichever date is earliest, or is one year if there is no expiration date of the temporary resident's authorized stay in the U.S.;
4. Authorizes the renewal of the limited term CDL within 180 days of its expiration, provided the temporary resident can verify his or her continued lawful status in the U.S.; and
5. Requires the renewal of the limited term CDL to be conducted in person at a deputy registrar agency, rather than through the BMV's online service.

Driver's license laws

Medically restricted driver's license

(R.C. 4507.08)

The bill eliminates the six-month validity period for a medically restricted temporary instruction permit or driver's license. Instead, it specifies that the Registrar must determine the validity period of that license. The Registrar may issue a restricted license to a person who is subject to any condition that causes episodic impairment of consciousness or loss of muscular control if that person presents a statement from a licensed physician that the person's condition is dormant or under effective medical control.

¹⁰⁹ "Real ID Act," 49 U.S.C. 30301, *et seq.*, 6 C.F.R. Part 37.

Ohio credential reprints

(R.C. 4507.40)

The bill allows a person to obtain from the BMV up to two reprints of an Ohio credential between initial issuance and renewal or between renewals. Current law limits individuals to one reprint during those time periods. Reprinted credentials are generally issued when a credential is lost, destroyed, or mutilated.

Under current law, “Ohio credential” is a temporary instruction permit identification card, driver’s license, CDL, motorcycle operator’s license, motorized bicycle license, or state identification card issued by the BMV.

Expedited Ohio credential

(R.C. 4507.41)

Beginning January 1, 2026, the bill allows a current holder of a valid Ohio credential to receive it via an expedited process. To receive an expedited Ohio credential, a person must pay a \$100 administrative fee in addition to all regular fees, taxes, and mailing costs. The Registrar must determine the mailing costs and the manner by which an Ohio credential is mailed. The \$100 fee and mailing costs must be deposited into the Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund. The Registrar may adopt rules for purposes of implementing the expedited credential program.

Driver training in schools grant program

(R.C. 4508.023)

The bill creates the Driver Training in Schools Grant Program in DPS and requires the DPS Director to administer the Program. The Director must distribute grants to schools so that those schools may provide driver training courses approved by the Director. The bill clarifies that a school remains eligible as a grant recipient even if that school provides its own driver training course or contracts with a third party to provide a driver training course. Under the bill, a school includes all the following:

- A city, local, exempted village, and joint vocational school district;
- A community school;
- A science, technology, engineering, and mathematics school;
- A chartered nonpublic school; and
- An educational service center, on behalf of a school or district.

Ignition interlock devices

(R.C. 4510.01, 4510.022, 4510.13, 4510.17, and 4510.46)

Restricted license

The bill makes two changes to the laws governing ignition interlock devices. First, it authorizes the Registrar to include a code on a restricted license indicating that the licensee is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a certified ignition interlock

device. Under current law, the restricted driver's license issued to an OVI offender for limited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device must have a statement printed on the license indicating the licensee's driving restriction. Other forms of driving restrictions are indicated by a letter code (e.g., for corrective lenses, daylight hours only, type of vehicle, etc.). Thus, the bill creates a similar authorization for a letter code for ignition interlock device restrictions.

Violations

Second, the bill adds two circumstances that constitute an ignition interlock device violation for purposes of extending a driver's license suspension or requiring additional continuous alcohol monitoring for an OVI offender. Namely, those circumstances are when:

1. The ignition interlock device detects the presence of alcohol in the offender's breath in a concentration above the preset level during operation of the vehicle, but after the device allowed the vehicle to start; and

2. The driver fails to provide a deep-lung breath sample or similar method sample in the amount of time required by the device during operation of the vehicle, but after the device allowed the vehicle to start.

Current ignition interlock devices are technologically capable of measuring the concentration by weight of alcohol in the breath of a driver before starting the motor vehicle's ignition system and after the motor vehicle has been started and during its operation. The secondary checks during a motor vehicle's operation ensure that another person who is sober did not provide the breath sample to start the motor vehicle for an impaired driver. Under current law, an ignition interlock device violation constitutes either tampering with or circumventing the device or providing a deep-lung breath sample or similar method sample that indicates a concentration that is sufficient to prevent the motor vehicle from starting. Thus, it does not currently include instances where a breath sample is necessary after the motor vehicle has been started.

Under current law, unchanged by the bill, ignition interlock device violations may result in the court ordering the offender to wear a device that provides continuous alcohol monitoring and the court extending the offender's driver's license suspension.

Traffic laws

Distracted Driving Law – failure to control a vehicle

(R.C. 4511.202 and 4511.911)

The bill adds the offense of failure to control a motor vehicle to the Distracted Driving Law. As a result, an offender may be found guilty of distracted driving if driving distracted was a contributing factor to the underlying offense of failing to reasonably control a motor vehicle. Failing to reasonably control a motor vehicle is a minor misdemeanor, which carries a fine of up to \$150. Under the bill, if a motor vehicle operator commits the offense while distracted, the operator is subject to an additional fine of up to \$100.

Seat belt and child restraint system misuse

(R.C. 4507.05, 4507.071, 4511.043, 4511.81, and 4513.263; conforming changes in R.C. 307.515, 733.40, 2152.21, 4501.11, 4513.35, and 5503.04)

The bill makes a violation of Ohio's seat belt laws a primary offense, rather than a secondary offense as under current law. A primary offense means that a law enforcement officer may issue a ticket for the offense solely for a violation of that offense. When an offense is a secondary offense, the law enforcement officer may only stop a driver if the driver is actively committing a primary offense at the same time as the secondary offense. Thus, under current law, if a driver is speeding and not wearing a seatbelt, an officer can cite the driver for both offenses. However, if a driver is driving legally and not wearing a seatbelt, the officer has no cause to cite the driver even though the driver is violating the seat belt law.

Under current law and the bill, the general prohibitions related to seat belts are the same. Namely, a person may not do any of the following:

1. Operate an automobile or school bus on any street or highway without wearing a seat belt;
2. Operate an automobile on any street or highway without ensuring that any front-seat passenger is wearing a seat belt;
3. Occupy the front seat of an automobile being operated on any street or highway without wearing a seat belt;
4. Operate a taxicab on any street or highway unless the seat belts are maintained in usable form; or
5. Occupy a motor vehicle driven by an operator who has either a learner's permit or a probationary driver's license without wearing a seat belt.

The bill also makes not using the proper child restraint system, booster seat, or seat belt a primary offense for all children up to age 15. Under current law, improperly securing a child who is less than age four and less than 40 pounds is a primary offense. However, improperly securing a child between the ages of four (and 40 pounds) and 15 (typically by using a booster seat or seat belt) is a secondary offense.

Under continuing law, children must be properly secured in a child restraint system that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards. A person securing a child in a restraint system must do so in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Examples of child restraint systems include car seats, booster seats, and seat belts. Which child restraint system is required for each child is based on the child's age, weight, height, the type of vehicle transporting the child, and the manufacturer's instructions for the system.

Objections to DPS orders

(R.C. 119.062)

The bill changes the deadline for an appeal of an order of the Registrar. Currently, the appeal must be made within 15 days of the “date of service” of the order. Under the bill, the appeal must be made within 15 days of the order’s mailing date to the party. Generally, a party that is adversely affected by any order of an agency may appeal the order to a court of common pleas. A party must also file a notice of appeal with the agency that issued the order, and that notice must set forth the reasons for the appeal.¹¹⁰

The bill also changes the deadline for any objection to a report and recommendation of a hearing examiner. Currently the objection must be made within ten days of the “date of service” of the report on the objecting party. The bill changes this to within 15 days of the report’s mailing date to the objecting party. In any adjudication hearing regarding administrative rules and procedure, an agency may appoint a referee or examiner (examiner) to conduct the hearing. The examiner must submit a written report to the agency that presents findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommendation of the agency’s action.¹¹¹

Request for administrative hearing

(R.C. 4509.101)

Under current law, when the Registrar imposes a driver’s license suspension on a person for failure to have proof of financial responsibility, the Registrar is not required to hold a hearing on the suspension in advance of its imposition. However, a person adversely affected by the Registrar’s order may request an administrative hearing regarding the suspension. The person must make the request within ten days after the order is issued. The bill extends that time to 15 days to make the timeline consistent with other instances in which a person may request an administrative hearing based on the Registrar’s orders.

Tobacco sales and enforcement agents

(R.C. 5502.14)

The bill grants authority to enforcement agents employed by DPS to enforce the law governing the unlawful distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, and alternative nicotine products on the premises of a licensed retail dealer of cigarettes or on any other premises where a violation of that law is occurring.

Enforcement agents, under current law, are employed by DPS to enforce the liquor control laws and rules, and laws and rules regulating the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Enforcement agents are also empowered to make arrests for violations of the laws and rules they are tasked with enforcing.

¹¹⁰ R.C. 119.12, not in the bill.

¹¹¹ R.C. 119.09, not in the bill.

Also, DPS is required by existing law to maintain an investigative unit to conduct investigations and other enforcement activity authorized by a number of laws, which includes the unlawful distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, and alternative nicotine products law.¹¹²

Emergency management assistance compact immunity

(R.C. 5502.30)

The bill applies the immunity provisions related to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, which currently apply only to employees of a political subdivision rendering aid in another state, to any person deployed to render aid in another state by an emergency management agency, including:

- A full-time or part-time employee of a nonprofit organization; or
- A paid or unpaid volunteer or health care worker of a for-profit or nonprofit organization.

In addition to the provisions above, the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, to which Ohio is a member state, includes a specific immunity provision. That provision states that officers or employees of a member state rendering aid in another state pursuant to the Compact are considered agents of the requesting state for tort liability and immunity purposes and generally are not liable for good faith actions taken when rendering aid.¹¹³

¹¹² R.C. 5502.13, not in the bill.

¹¹³ R.C. 5502.40, not in the bill.